



**TONY ROBINSON** talks **ALFRED THE GREAT**, unsung heroes and **EUROPE**

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# HISTORY

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Why did James VI and I launch a 16th-century witch craze?

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The dramatic story of the first  
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Meet Mary Anning, pioneering  
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Did exile kill the  
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The Apollo 8 astronauts were the first men to leave Earth's orbit

# Fly me to the Moon...



Just before Christmas in 1968 – a year marked by **assassinations, revolution and discord** – Apollo 8 gave the world something it desperately needed: hope for the future. Fifty years ago, astronauts Frank Borman, Bill Anders and Jim Lovell became the first men to **escape the clutches of Earth's gravity** and journey to the Moon – and in doing so, **stole a march** on

the Soviets in the Space Race. It was an out-of-this-world mission, **hatched amid setbacks and failures**, shaped by the wider tensions of the Cold War. Apollo historian David Woods picks up the story on page 42.

Back on Earth, we ask what **Britain's battlefields** can tell us following the news that part of Bosworth will be built on (p29), find out why King James VI and I was **obsessed with witches** (p34) and unearth the extraordinary tale of 19th-century dinosaur hunter Mary Anning (p71). Plus, we cast an eye over some of **history's great coincidences** (p68).

We've also some exciting news: we have a new website! Head over to [www.historyrevealed.com](http://www.historyrevealed.com) and **let us know what you think** – we always love to hear from readers!

**Paul McGuinness**  
Editor

*Paul*

**Don't miss our November issue, on sale 29 November**

## CONTRIBUTORS



**Tony Robinson**  
The actor and television presenter

reflects on the spectre of war and the mystery of Alfred the Great. See page 18



**Rebecca Wragg Sykes**  
Archaeology expert

Rebecca asks why more people haven't heard of dinosaur discoverer Mary Anning. See page 71



**David Woods**  
David currently edits NASA's online Apollo

Flight Journal, so is ideally placed to take us to the Moon with the Apollo 8 astronauts. See page 42

## THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

**19**

Years that fallen French emperor Napoleon lay in an unmarked grave – all because of an argument over what name should be chiselled on his tomb. See page 61.

**3,000**

Number of people accused of witchcraft in late 16th- and early 17th-century Scotland, after James I became convinced that witches were plotting against him. See page 34.

**60**

The cost of a nose in shillings under the Saxon law of wergild – a form of compensation system for injuries and theft designed to prevent endless blood feuds. See page 76.

## ON THE COVER

18

34

42



29

71

61

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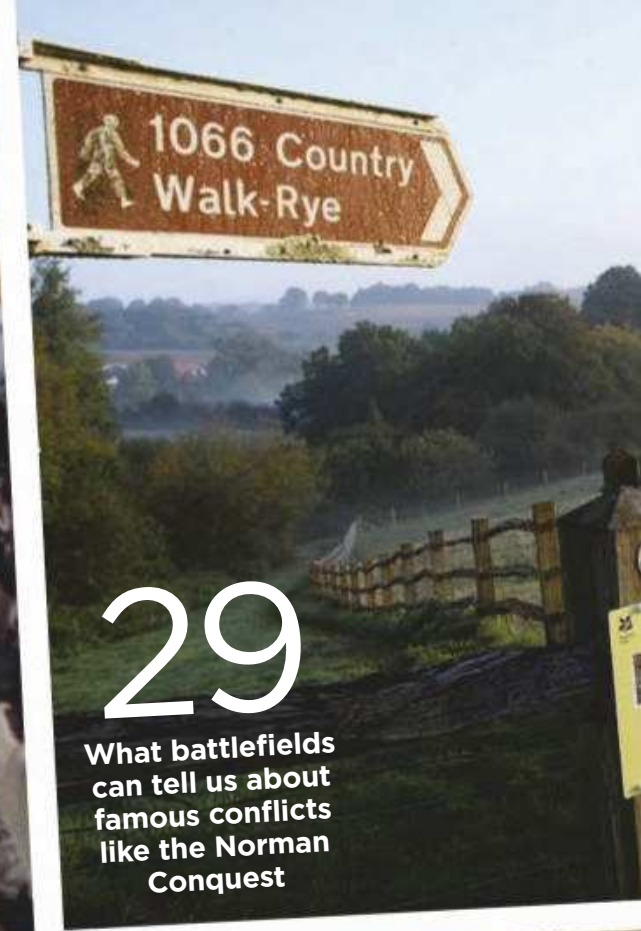
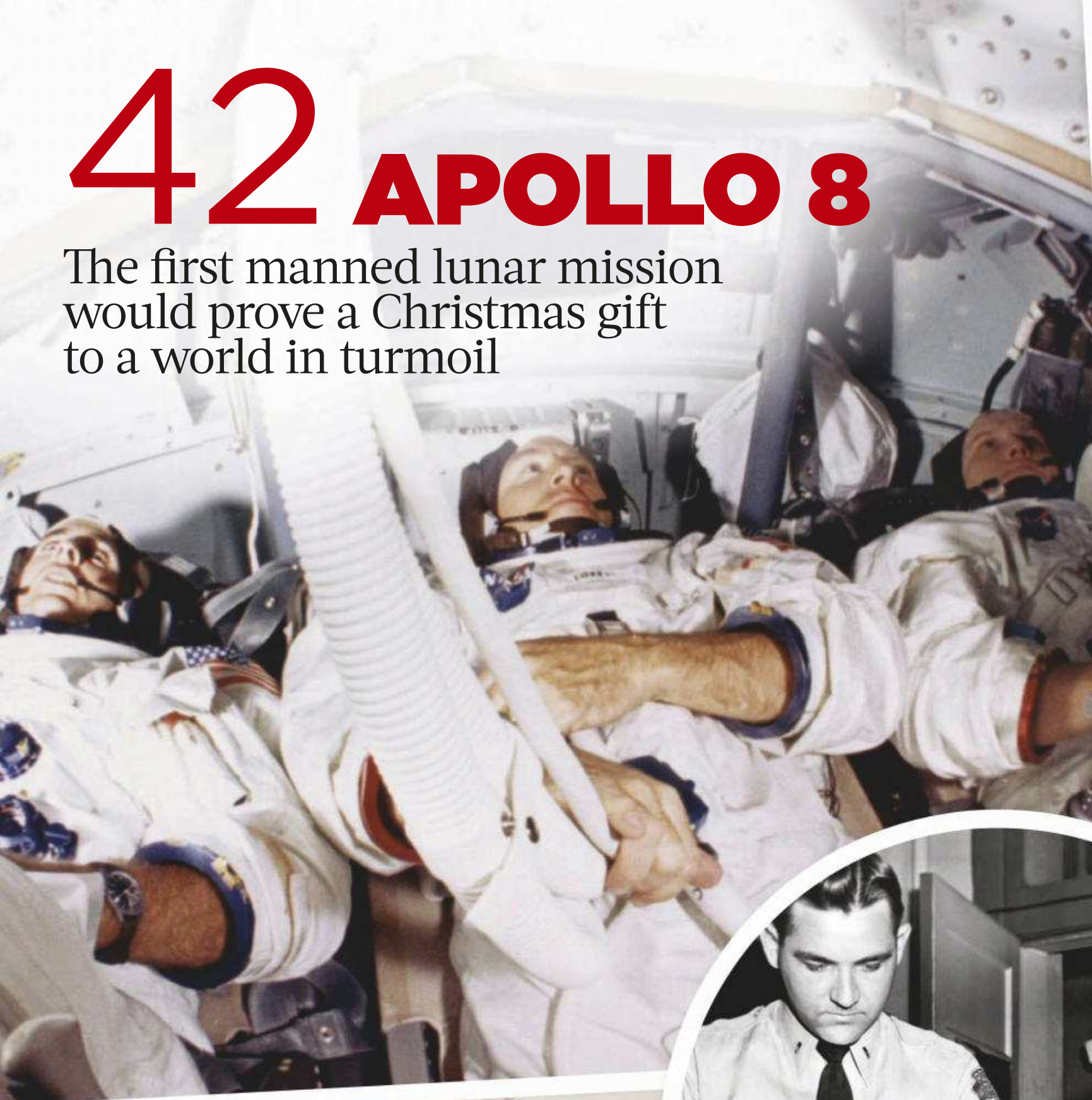
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# 42 APOLLO 8

The first manned lunar mission would prove a Christmas gift to a world in turmoil



## 29

What battlefields can tell us about famous conflicts like the Norman Conquest



## 71

The fossil hunter who became her own tourist attraction



## 22

"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right"

## 81

More than 2,000 treasures go on display in a new Egyptian exhibition





# DECEMBER 2018

# CONTENTS



**QUESTION TIME**  
Was Bruce Lee killed on set? And who invented mustard gas?



## REWIND

### Snapshots

Playing dead on the set of *Spartacus*...p6

### History in the News

An Arthurian legend in Sweden.....p13

### Time Piece

Ashante gold weights.....p15

### History in Colour

Beefeaters and boundary beaters.....p16

### Your History

Face of *Time Team* Tony Robinson.....p18

### Yesterday's Papers

The Wright brothers' public debut.....p20

### This Month In... 1955

Rosa Parks takes a stand.....p22

### Graphic History

Popes and the papacy.....p24

## FEATURES

### The Battle for Britain's Battlefields

With development on Bosworth set to go ahead, we ask: why are battlefields worth preserving?.....p29

### The King Obsessed with Witches

James VI and I's superstitions saw thousands of 'witches' executed - but burning at the stake was a myth.....p34

### Apollo 8

How NASA finally launched the first manned mission to the Moon.....p42

### Napoleon in Exile

What happened to the fallen French emperor after defeat at Waterloo?.....p61

### Top 10: Coincidences

Thirteen may be unlucky for some, but for Louis XVI of France it was 21.....p68

### The Woman Who Hunted Dinosaurs

The extraordinary discoveries of Mary Anning.....p71

## Q&A

### Ask the Experts

Your questions answered.....p76

## ON OUR RADAR

### What's On

Our picks for this month.....p81

### Britain's Treasures

Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon..p86

### Books

A look at the new releases.....p88

### Postcards from the Past

Your snaps from across the globe.....p92

## EVERY ISSUE

Letters.....p94

Crossword.....p96

Next Issue.....p97

Photo Finish.....p98

ALAMY X2, GETTY X5, BOLTON COUNCIL X1, NASA X1

# 34

Why was James VI and I so afraid of witches?



## LIKE IT? SUBSCRIBE!

More details on our special offer on **p26**

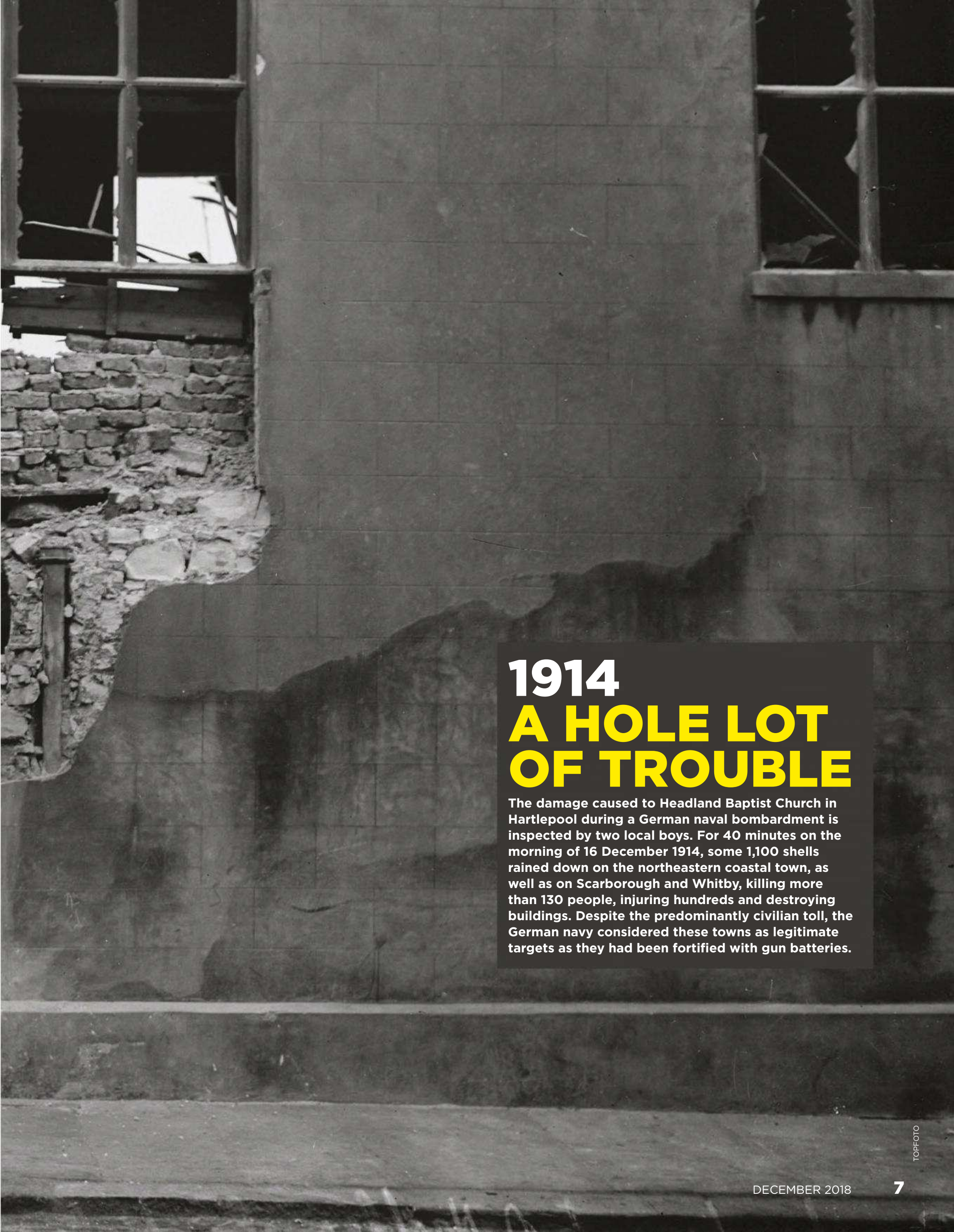




RECENT ST.







# 1914 A HOLE LOT OF TROUBLE

The damage caused to Headland Baptist Church in Hartlepool during a German naval bombardment is inspected by two local boys. For 40 minutes on the morning of 16 December 1914, some 1,100 shells rained down on the northeastern coastal town, as well as on Scarborough and Whitby, killing more than 130 people, injuring hundreds and destroying buildings. Despite the predominantly civilian toll, the German navy considered these towns as legitimate targets as they had been fortified with gun batteries.





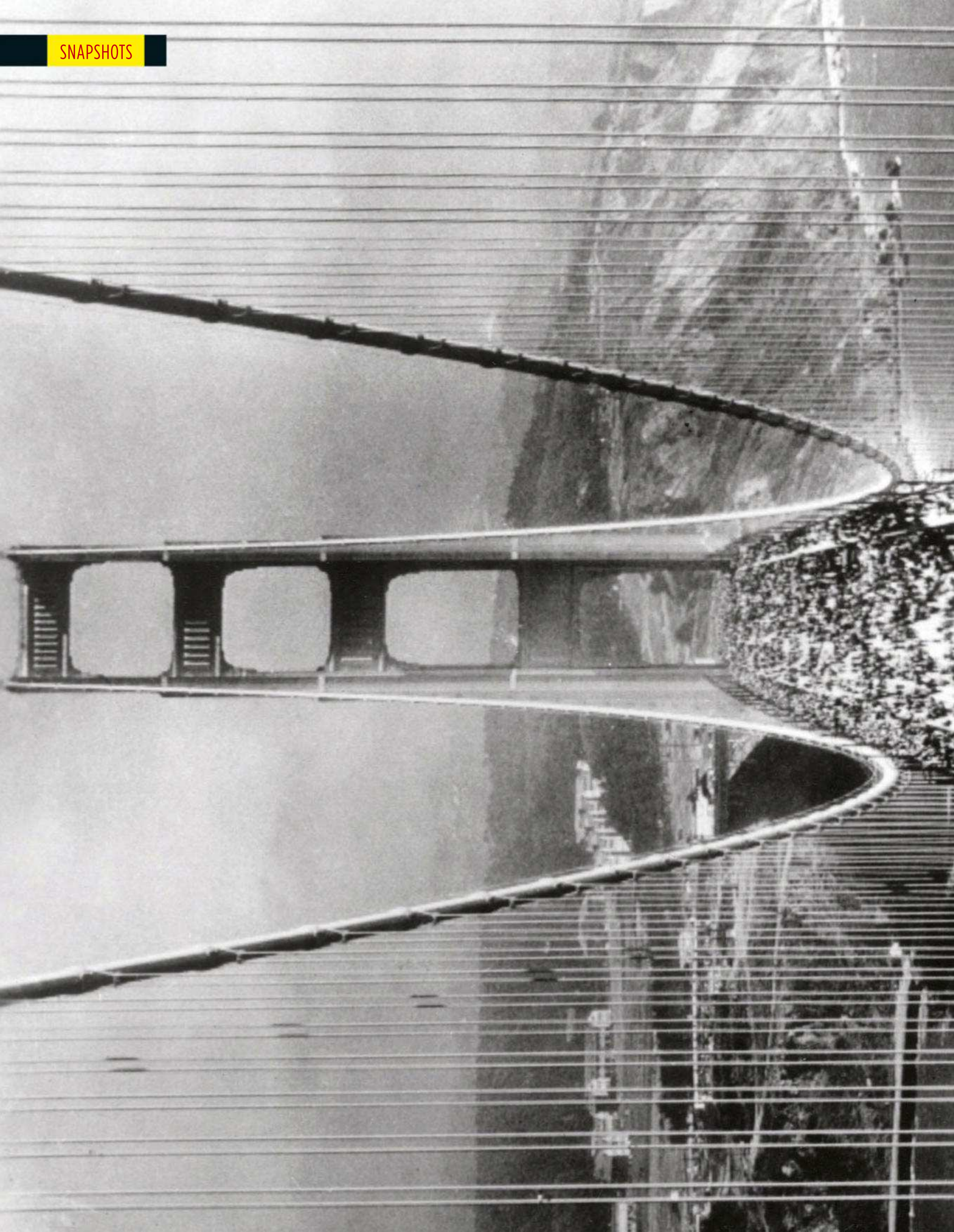
# 1959 PLAYING DEAD

Renowned director Stanley Kubrick took on one of his most ambitious and expensive projects when he directed the epic film *Spartacus* – inspired by the rebel slave who led a revolt against the Roman Republic. Kubrick's directing was meticulous – during the battle scenes every 'corpse' held a number so Kubrick could shout directions to each actor.











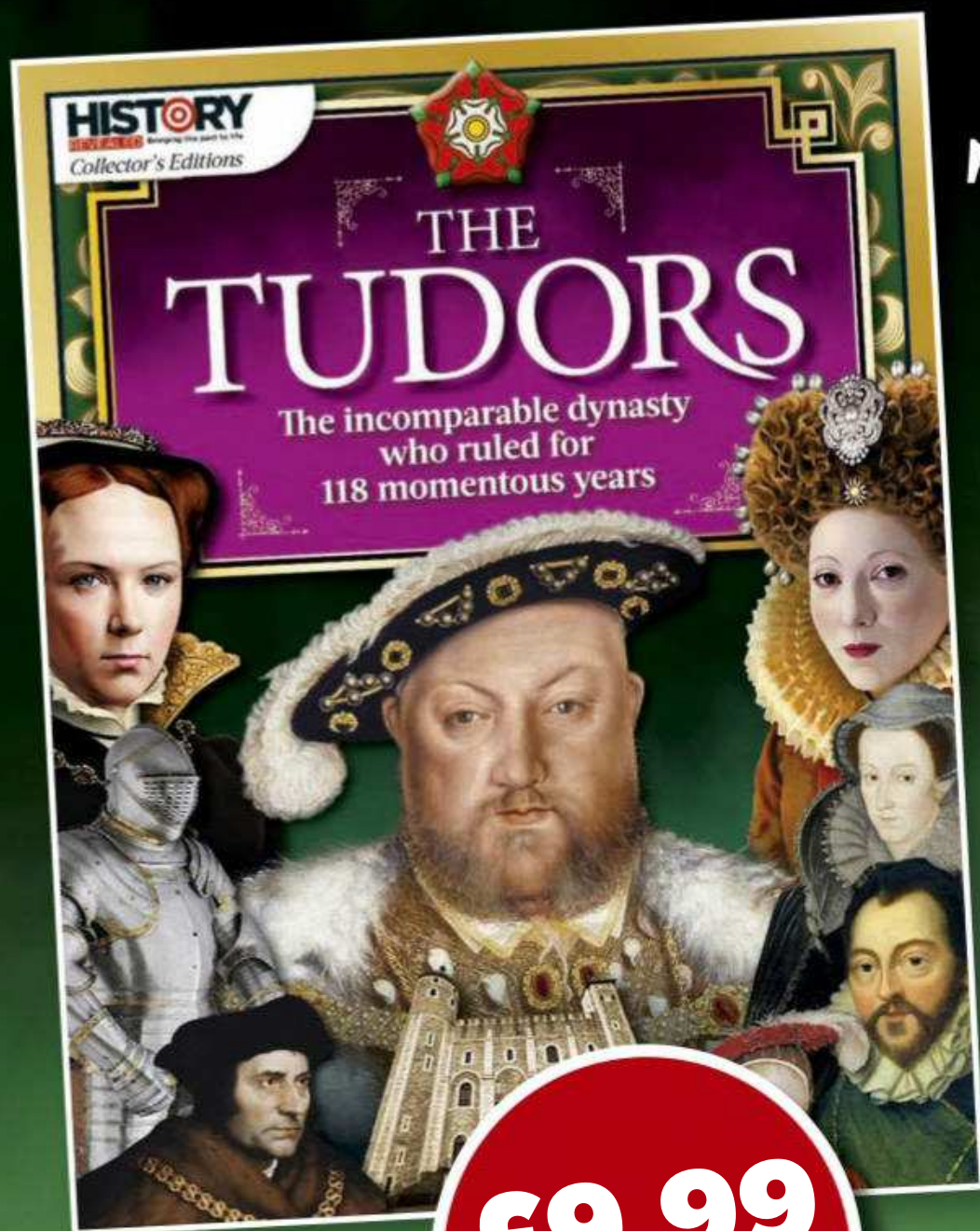
# 1937 GOLDEN CROSS

After five years of problematic construction, a week-long fiesta marked the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco – which, at 1,280 metres, became the longest suspension bridge in the world. The celebrations began on 27 May 1937 with ‘Pedestrian Day’, when around 200,000 people paid 25 cents to cross. Motorists had to wait until the following day before they could drive across the now-iconic orange landmark.





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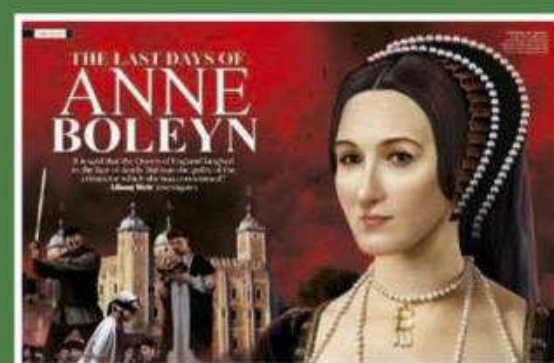
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Giving you a fresh perspective on the events and findings from history

## HISTORY IN THE NEWS



MAIN: Cabot crossed the ocean in the *Matthew*; Weston's ship is unknown

BELOW: The huge tax record – it's made from the skins of more than 200 sheep

### ROYAL REWARD FOR TUDOR VOYAGE

Tax records reveal that an English explorer's voyage to the New World delighted King Henry VII

In 1499, English merchant William Weston is believed to have set off on a voyage to the New World. Next to nothing is known about the trip, but now evidence has emerged – in the form of a tax record – suggesting that it was wildly successful.

The official document records that Weston, who lived in Bristol, enjoyed an audience with Henry VII in 1500 and was given £30 (equivalent to six years pay for a labourer) for expenses for his exploration of “nova terra”. Such a vast sum signifies that he pleased the King. But it also

raises the question: what exactly happened that Weston deserved it?

“Our greatest hope is that we may find out what Weston achieved on his 1499 voyage,” says Dr Evan Jones of the University of Bristol, who was involved in this find and the publication of a letter in 2009 that suggested Weston's voyage in the first place. “Where did he go and why was Henry VII pleased enough that he gave him a reward that was substantially greater than the reward received by Cabot himself?”



John Cabot was a Venetian who sailed to the New World in 1497 at Henry VII's behest, becoming the first European to reach North America since the 11th century. It's thought that Weston may have been present on this voyage, too: diplomats mentioned that several unnamed “great seamen” from Bristol took part and they both knew each other – Cabot and Weston received rewards from Henry VII at the same time in 1498.

### SIX OF THE BEST...

Archaeological and unusual finds made by children...p14



### YOUR HISTORY

Historical documentary presenter Tony Robinson...p18



### YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

The Wright brothers take to the skies...p20



### THIS MONTH IN... 1955

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat...p22



### Graphic History: Popes

Election strife, antipopes, schisms and more...p24



THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM X1, TOPFOTO X1, REX/SHUTTERSTOCK X1, PAUL MARC MITCHELL X1, GETTY X1



IN THE NEWS

## EIGHT-YEAR-OLD PULLS ANCIENT SWORD FROM LAKE

A young girl becomes a real-life King Arthur after finding the blade in Sweden

**S**aga Vanecek was enjoying a swim in her local lake in Sweden when she pulled a sword out of the water. The eight-year-old, originally from Minnesota in the US, was playing in Vidöstern Lake in Småland, near her home, when she found what she first thought was a stick.

"I picked it up and was going to drop it back in the water, but it had a handle, and I saw that it was a little bit pointy at the end and all rusty. I held it up in the air and I said 'Daddy, I found a sword!' When he saw that it bent and was rusty, he came running up and took it."

A drought over the summer meant the water in the lake was lower than normal, allowing Saga to reach the lakebed. Experts from the nearby Jönköpings Läns Museum say that the sword is extremely well-preserved and could be from the fifth or sixth century, pre-dating the Viking period. The find prompted other searches in the area: so far, a brooch from a similar period has been found, with the working theory being that the area

may have been a place of sacrifice. The sword is now in the care of the museum for conservation – this could take up to a year due to its fragile nature.

Internet commentators have suggested that Vanecek's find now makes her Queen of Sweden – comparing the story with the Arthurian legends of Excalibur and the Lady of the Lake. Although she has no royal inclinations or dreams of an archaeological career, she is still a fan of learning about "old stuff".

Saga with the sword (right), and the lake it was found in, where further searches are being made (below)



## SIX OF THE BEST... DISCOVERIES BY CHILDREN

Our pick of the archeological and unusual finds children have made



### 1 PECH MERLE CAVE ART, FRANCE, 1922

Children had been exploring these caves for years, unaware that art more than 25,000 years old was lurking within. They were found by Andre David and Henri Dutetre.



### 2 SAINT PENDANT, ENGLAND, 2010

On his first metal-detecting hunt, four-year-old James Hyatt stumbled across a 500-year-old gold reliquary. It's now a permanent part of the British Museum's medieval collection.



### 3 NEW HOMINID, SOUTH AFRICA, 2008

Matthew Berger was nine when he uncovered bones of an unknown relative to humans, who lived two million years ago. His scientist dad had spent years searching for them.



### 4 A FERRARI, LOS ANGELES, 1978

It's not every day you find a car buried in a garden, but that's what a group of children found in 1978. The car was reported stolen a few years earlier. There were no clues as to how it got there.



### 5 PARASAUROLOPHUS, UTAH, 2009

Kevin Terris was 17 when he discovered the most complete skeleton of this boneheaded-dinosaur while on a school trip. His palaeontologist teachers had walked right past it.



### 6 METEORITE, NEW MEXICO, 2012

Thirteen-year-old Jansen Lyons was convinced his meteorite find was important, and the experts agreed – the almost 1kg space rock had been on Earth for around 10,000 years.



# TIME PIECE

A look at everyday objects from the past

## WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD

Gold trading in the Asante Empire was a serious business

The Asante Empire in what is now Ghana existed from the late 17th-century until it was annexed into the British Gold Coast colony in 1902. It was a major player in the gold trade, and gold dust was the local currency – people were even buried with packets of the dust for the afterlife. These decorative weights, often made of brass, were used by traders to ensure they were getting the right amount of gold dust for their wares, with each piece having a specific weight. The larger and more attractive the weight was, the more likely it was to belong to a wealthy, upper-class owner.



The scroll was so badly damaged that reading it normally was impossible

### IN THE NEWS

## DAMAGED SCROLLS VIRTUALLY UNWRAPPED

Improved X-ray technology unlocks secrets hidden in historic scrolls

Hidden writing from the past is now readable – thanks to new technology that can penetrate damaged scrolls. Cardiff University researchers have spent the last five years polishing their technique, which they say can “virtually unravel” delicate documents.

Using X-ray tomography – used in medical imaging – they can detect ancient ink marks and piece them together into a 3D image, revealing otherwise unreadable text.

Their latest test was on a 16th-century scroll from Diss Heywood Manor in Norwich, which was so badly burnt it was fused together – it simply could not be opened without destroying it. They discovered that it contained details of land transactions, and that it was possible to read individuals’ names.

Prof Paul Rosin of Cardiff University led the project. “We know that there is a large body of historical documents in museums and archives that are too fragile to be opened or unrolled,” he says. “We would certainly welcome the opportunity to try out our new techniques.”





# HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs  
that bring the past to life

## THE TOWER OF LONDON, 1900

With wands of willow at the ready, a group of children prepare for the 'beating of the bounds'. Every three years on Ascension Day, officials at the Tower of London lead local schoolchildren around the 22 boundary markers, which they symbolically beat with their sticks to mark the territory and ward off evil spirits.







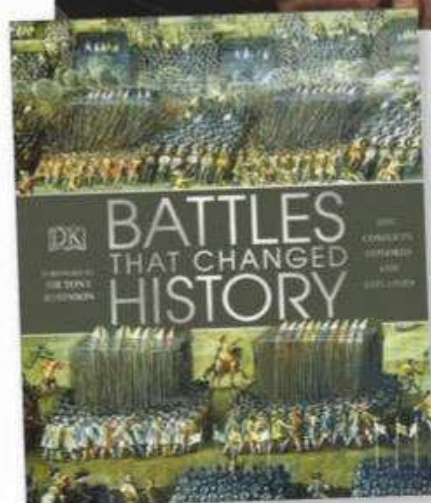
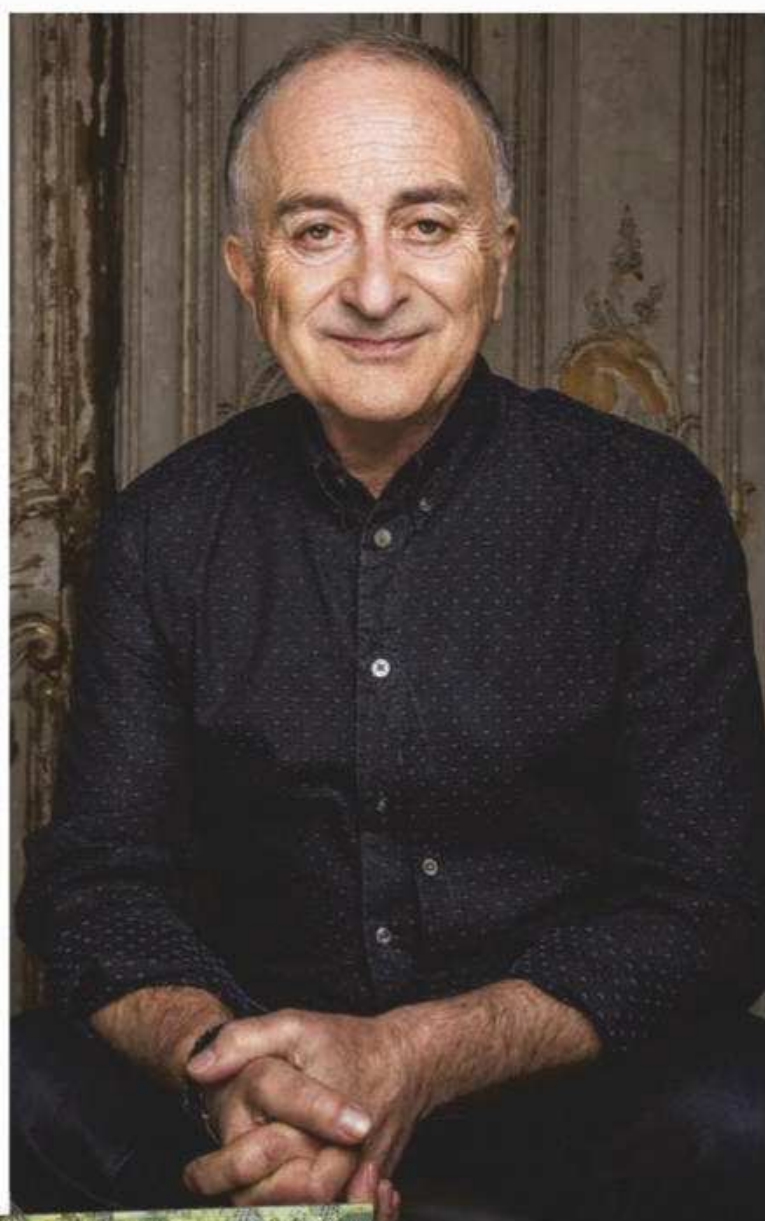


# YOUR HISTORY



## Tony Robinson

The host of innumerable historical documentaries and face of *Time Team* chats about causality, the spectre of war and the puzzle of Alfred the Great (it's not the cakes)



Tony Robinson provided the foreword for *Battles that Changed History* (DK, out now) – a journey through 3,000 years of combat

### **Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?**

That question presupposes causality. It presupposes that if we'd given Franz Ferdinand a bulletproof vest at Sarajevo, then World War I wouldn't have happened. Although we know, from what most historians feel, that World War I would probably have broken out anyway, at some time in the couple of years after. It's always difficult, I think, to say whether or not you would have been able to change history, certainly whether or not you would have changed it for the better.

The reality for me is this: the two greatest and most unpleasant wars in history were fought on European soil in the 20th century. At the end of which, the European leaders agreed that it must never happen again and that was why the common market was created. It wasn't essentially an economic imperative, although of course, that was very important, it was to stop war, and I think that swathes of people have forgotten that that's why the European Union was set up.

I think, were I able to intervene in history I would intervene on that fateful day when we just scraped a Brexit result in the referendum. Never mind about the trade, never mind about whether it makes Britain richer or poorer, I think we'll find ourselves so militarily isolated and exposed, at a time of great Russian expansion, and at a time when the American's have shown at best disinterest (and at worst disdain) for Europe. I think we're suddenly going to become very vulnerable

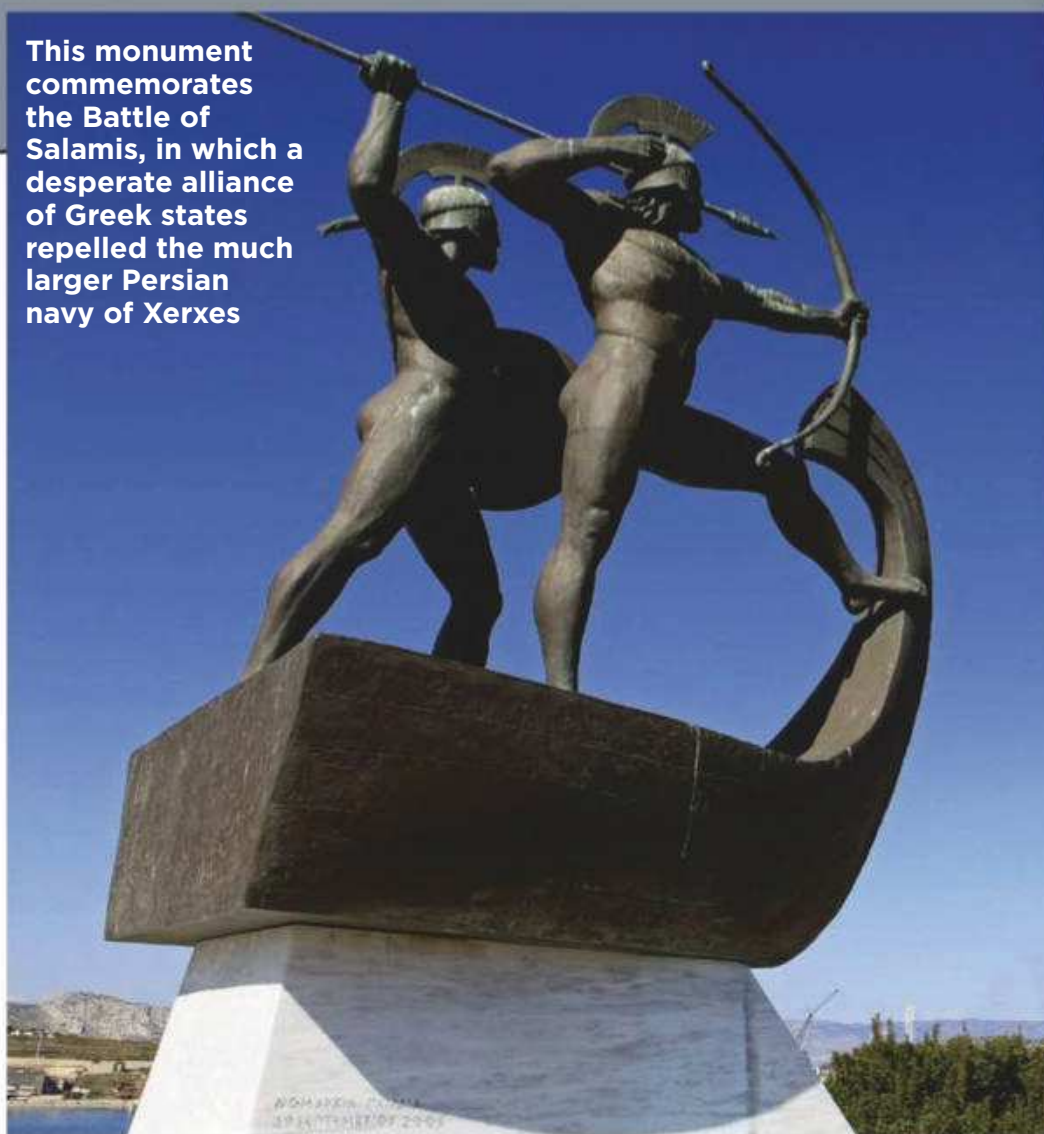
again, and when I look at *Battles that Changed History* and see how many of those battles took place on European soil, I'm very worried about the course of action we're currently taking.

**Alfred was a scourge of the Vikings and a terrible cake baker**





This monument commemorates the Battle of Salamis, in which a desperate alliance of Greek states repelled the much larger Persian navy of Xerxes



A plaque marks the spot where the 300 made their stand at Thermopylae



**“I’ve spent an awful lot of my adult life pacing around battle sites”**

**Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?**

Alfred the Great. It has always puzzled me how at a time when virtually the whole of England was under Viking control, and at a time when there were only 25 square miles of land in the Somerset levels that were controlled by the Wessex men, that in two years, Alfred had turned that around.

We had the Battle of Edington in 878 AD, which was an enormous success for him and we saw the beginnings of Britain happen almost overnight. We had this King who, if the records of the time were correct, was not only a brilliant general, but also a brilliant law-giver and economist. He was great at virtually everything, except cooking, his only failure being to burn the cakes.

I would like to know how much of that was down to the brilliance of one man, how many grey eminences there were in the background whose names we’ll never know, who actually orchestrated this comeback by the Saxons. It’s a huge puzzle to me, a

wonderful part of England’s story that’s swathed in question marks.

**Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?**

I’ve spent an awful lot of my adult life pacing around battle sites or supposed battle sites like Bosworth and Hastings, trying to work out where they really were. They’ve tended to be on flat, rather unimpressive fields. What I would like to do would be to go to the Peloponnese and look at where the 300 fought at the Battle of Thermopylae, and then look down into the straits below to really understand how the battle of Salamis happened and how the Athenian navy managed to lure the much larger Persian navy into disaster.

**Q Who is your unsung history hero?**

I’ve thought about this quite a lot, that history, by and large, is created by the winners of battles or the winning country or culture. And how there have always been unsung heroes who have stemmed the tide of aggression. I think

that was particularly true in the late 18th- and 19th-centuries when you had this huge expansion of colonial empires and you had battles like the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876, where for a moment that flow was stopped.

I’ve done quite a lot of work out in Australia and I became very interested in a character called Pemulwuy, who was an aboriginal rebel in the 1790s. He was shot seven times and he seemed to be very capable strategically, and became almost a magic man where his troops were concerned.

Eventually – in 1802 – he was shot. His head was removed and it was sent to the naturalist Joseph Banks to put in the museum in England. It has never been found. I think if we could find the head of Pemulwuy and get it taken back to New South Wales, we could genuinely honour a great fighter and one who, certainly in England, is forgotten to history.

**Pemulwuy waged a 12-year guerilla campaign against Australian settlers**





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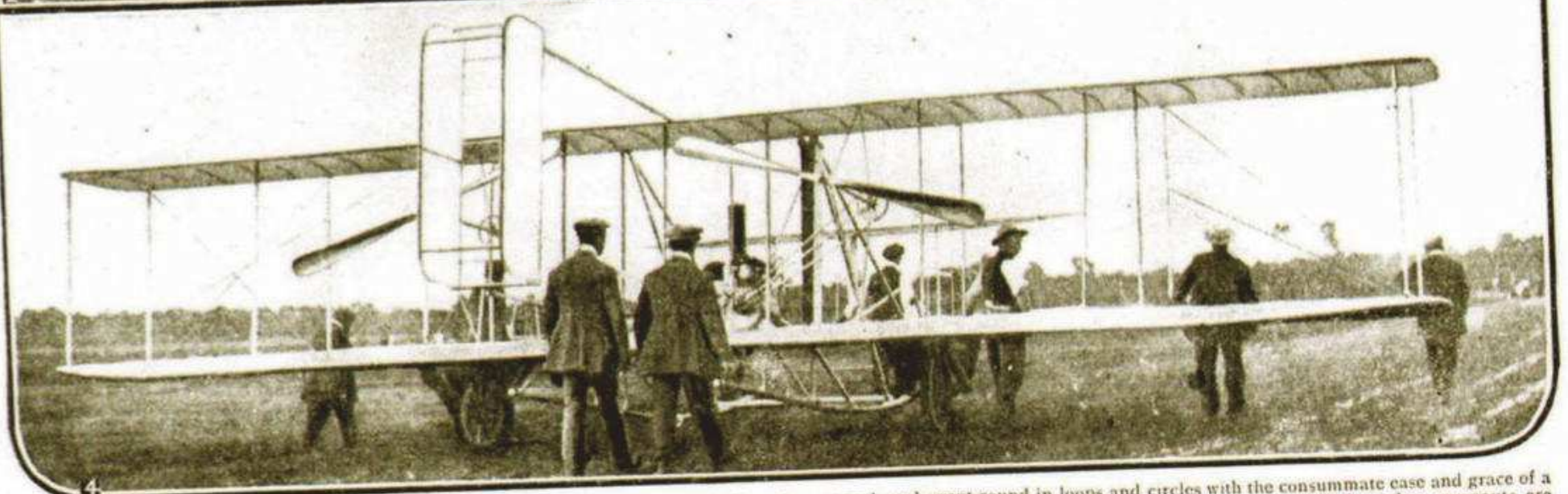
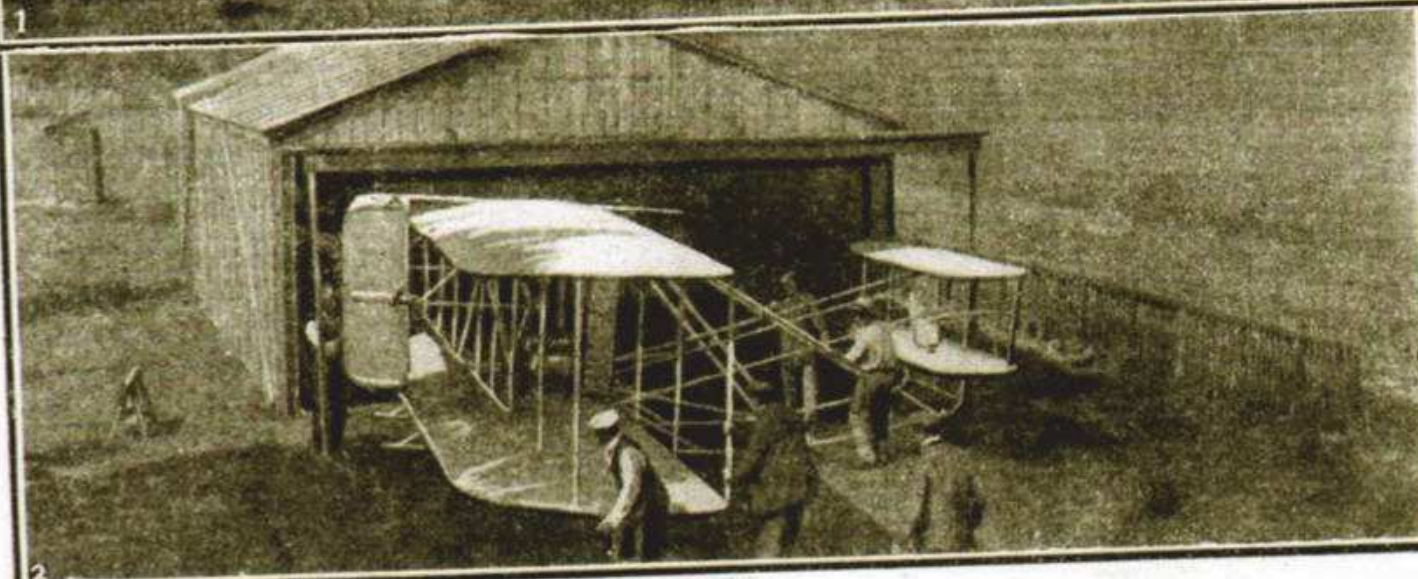
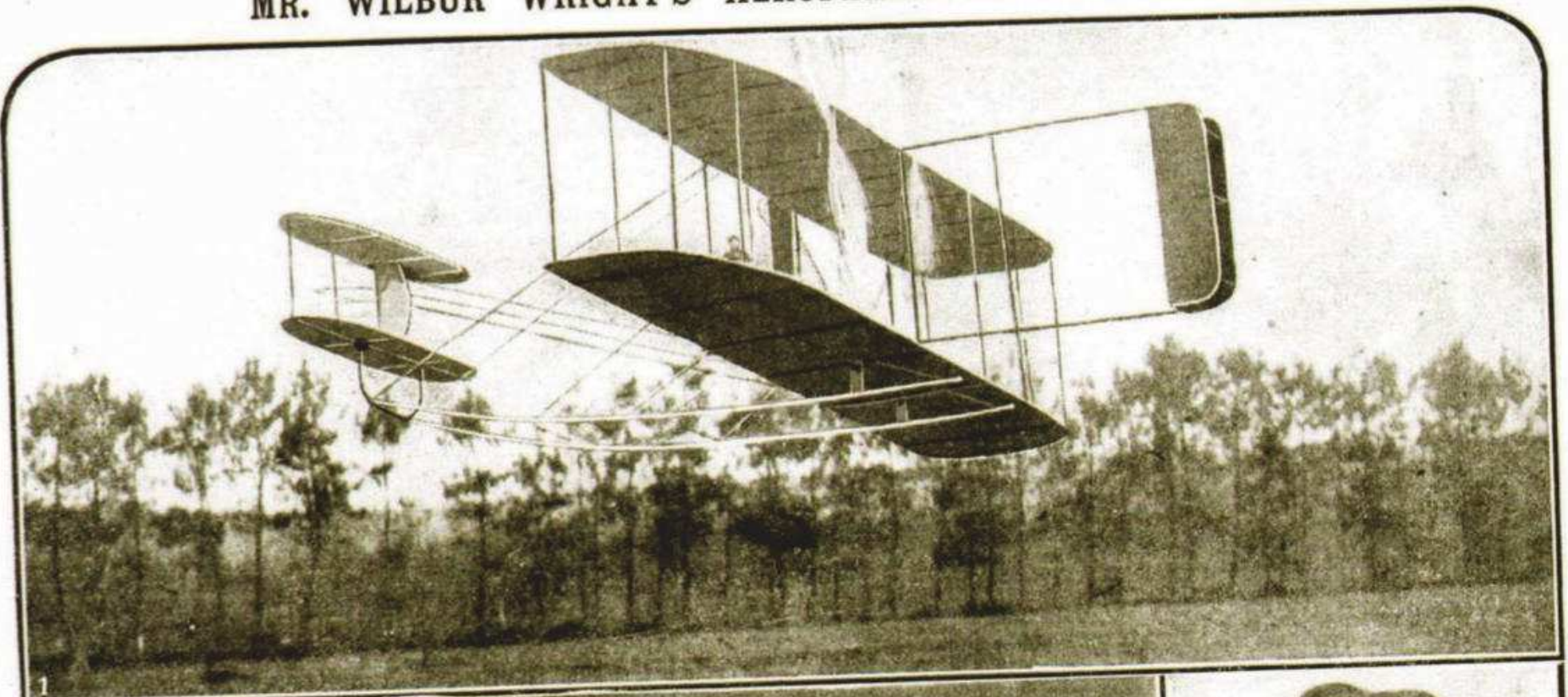
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MR. WILBUR WRIGHT'S AEROPLANE IN FULL FLIGHT.



No such perfect control over a flying-machine has ever been known as that exercised by Mr. Wilbur Wright, the young American aeronaut, over the aeroplane in which he has for the past few days been accomplishing some marvellous flights at Le Mans, in France. In these trials the aeroplane has travelled speedily and easily round a race-course at the command of its pilot, has executed figures of eight in the air, has sailed,

soared, and swept round in loops and circles with the consummate ease and grace of a swallow. In the words of a spectator at Tuesday's trial flight, other aeronauts are "babies by comparison; the American is their master who has long ago taken his degree." (1) Mr. Wright in his aeroplane in full flight. (2) Leaving the shed. (3) Mr. Wright. (4) Wheeled to the starting-point. The back is nearest the camera.



# YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

Orville (left) and Wilbur Wright made only one flight together, in 1910

## THE WRIGHT BROTHERS MAKE PUBLIC DEBUT

Five years after the first powered flight, the airplane completes gravity-defying displays over Europe

**D**uring August 1908, Wilbur Wright wowed audiences in France with his airplane, propelling himself and his brother Orville to fame and securing their place as the fathers of flight. Monarchs from across Europe came to watch the first public demonstrations and their doubters had to admit defeat.

The Wright brothers' professional partnership had begun two decades earlier, after dropping out of school, with a print shop. They gained a reputation for their inventive printing presses, opened a bicycle shop where they developed their own brand and fuelled an interest in the possibilities of flight.

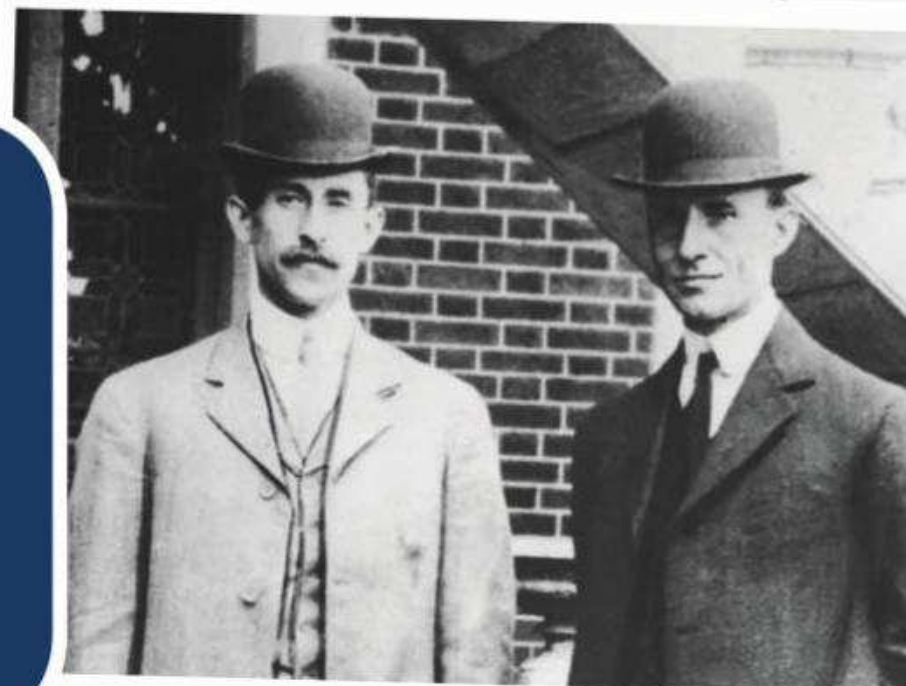
The brothers understood that three elements were needed to create a successful airplane: wings to generate lift, a system to propel the craft, and a means of control. Unlike earlier attempts at gliders, the Wrights developed a directional system that controlled pressure on the wings, rather than the more dangerous method of shifting the position of the pilot. After many attempts, their glider flew in 1902, exactly as predicted.

They turned their attention to engines and on 17 December 1903, for the first time in history, a heavier-than-air machine completed a sustained and powered flight. Rather than shout about their

achievements, though, the brothers stopped flying, preferring to focus on patent protection so no one could copy their invention. This led to sceptics doubting whether they had actually made any flights, but they refused to rush back into the air. They spent time negotiating sales contracts, including with the at-first-hesitant US military, and preparing for public demonstrations.

Finally, in the summer of 1908, their airplane burst onto the world stage. On 8 August, Wilbur made a flight near Le Mans, France, which he followed over a few days with increasingly technical displays. The public grew more spellbound with each flight, which the Wrights continued to do in Europe. Now globally famous, they met royalty, leaders and were welcomed back to the US as heroes.

By November 1909, they had established the Wright Company and were producing aircraft for the US Air Force, as well as other extremely interested parties. Orville also opened a training school for pilots. The aviation age was taking off. 📍



The Wright Flyer remained low and slow enough for the crowds to get a good look



Wilbur, looking all business, teaches French aviator Paul Tissandier the art of being a pilot



# THIS MONTH IN... 1955

Anniversaries that have made history

## ROSA PARKS TAKES A STAND BY SITTING

One black woman refusing to give up her seat on a bus turned into a wider movement that fought segregation and inequality


**A**frican-Americans had wilfully violated the segregation of public transport before Rosa Parks, even in her hometown of Montgomery, Alabama, where 15-year-old Claudette Colvin was arrested nine months earlier for the same crime of refusing to give up her bus seat. Yet it was Parks' now-immortalised act of defiance that proved to be the spark that set the civil rights movement ablaze.

On 1 December 1955, Parks finished a tiring Thursday as a department store seamstress and boarded a bus to go home, taking a seat right behind the whites-only section. All the seats were soon taken and when a white man got on and stood in the aisle, the bus driver, James Blake, instructed four black passengers, including the 42-year-old Parks, to move. This was not her first run-in with Blake as, in 1943, he kicked her off his bus for entering through the front door rather than the back.

The others got up; Parks remained seated. She wasn't physically tired, as was claimed afterwards, but tired of giving in. Parks had been a passionate activist and member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for years already, and knew the consequences of her refusal to move. She was arrested.

Her story came to the attention of Edgar Nixon, head of the local NAACP chapter, and lawyer Fred Gray, who had been waiting for an opportune case to attack segregation in the courts. They considered Parks to be the ideal spokesperson and she agreed, at great personal cost. Parks lost her job, put her

family in danger and received death threats for her commitment.

A one-day bus boycott was organised for the day of her trial, 5 December, but this was only the beginning. The resulting Montgomery Bus Boycott, lasting 381 days, successfully ended segregation on Alabama buses and signalled the next steps in the civil rights march: mass mobilisation, non-violence and the emergence of a charismatic leader, Martin Luther King. 



Barack Obama unveiled this full-size statue of Parks in the US Capitol Building in 2013



Parks (seen here with former US Vice President Al Gore) was honoured with a congressional gold medal in 1999





“Why did they push us around?” Parks asked one of the officers who arrested her. “I don’t know,” he replied, “but the law’s the law”.

**“You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right”**

*Rosa Parks*



## POPES AND THE PAPACY

There have been 266 popes – but how are they chosen? And have they all been good?

**T**he pope – the supreme pontiff, the Bishop of Rome, God's representative on Earth – is the head of the Catholic Church worldwide, the leader of a faith with 1.2 billion adherents today.

Modern popes tend their well-spread flock from the Vatican, a tiny, sovereign enclave within the Italian capital, Rome. But it wasn't always this way: in centuries past popes, and the papacy in general (that's the 'office' of the pope), held vast lands. Nor did they only exert spiritual power. Some have wielded such

might that they rivalled the most dominant medieval kings. Popes have issued laws, ruled on disputes (much to the ire of Henry VIII) and held the threat of excommunication over men like a Damoclean sword.

The incumbent Holy Father is the 266th pope, a role that has come to stand as both religious leader and champion of interfaith dialogue. But as with any fêted office, its past has seen some colourful moments.

**31%**  
of popes have  
been canonised  
as saints

### THE PAPAL STATES

From AD 756 until 1870, the pope was the sovereign of a swathe of territory which, at its greatest extent in the 18th century, accounted for much of central Italy. The popes of this era ruled these 'Papal States' like kings, were active in the local politics and even went to war with their neighbours. Its death knell was the Italian reunification, after which the papacy was granted a smaller base in Rome – the Vatican.

**67**

Years that the papacy  
resided in Avignon,  
not Rome

Clement V moved the papal court to this French city in 1309, beginning what has been described as the 'Babylonian captivity of the papacy'. Clement and the following six popes were all Frenchmen, and most were considered to be under the sway of the French crown.

### HOW ARE POPES CHOSEN?

Popes are elected by the college of cardinals at a meeting called the conclave. Sealed in a suite of rooms, the cardinals are not allowed to connect with the outside world except through the burning of their ballot papers twice a day – white smoke means a new pope, black that the debate rages on. Voting is not always swift: following the death of Clement IV in 1268, it took three years to elect his successor.





## DEUS VULT!

Urban II issued the call to arms that led to the First Crusade. At the 1095 Council of Clermont, he urged Frankish Christians to aid the kingdom of God – which, it is said, was met with a cry of “Deus Vult”: God wills it.

### AGE OF THE POPES ON ELECTION

**20**

**YOUNGEST**

John XI (AD 931-35)  
Benedict IX (first term  
AD 1032-44)

**65**

**AVERAGE**

**79**

**OLDEST**

Clement X (1670-76)  
Alexander VIII (1689-91)

### LENGTH OF PAPAL REIGN

**13 DAYS**

**SHORTEST**

Urban VII  
(15-27 September 1590)

**7**

**YEARS**

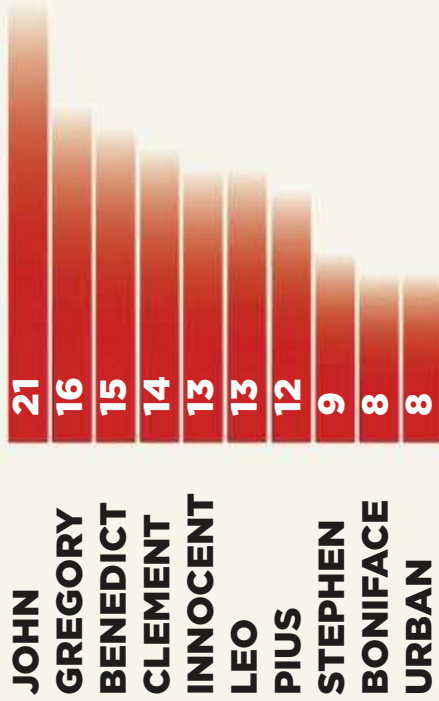
**AVERAGE**

**34 YEARS**

**LONGEST**

St Peter (30-64 AD)

## TOP 10 PAPAL NAMES:



## THE WESTERN SCHISM

From 1378-1417, there were often two popes – in 1410, there were three. Gregory XI returned the papacy to Rome in 1377, and Urban VI was elected in his stead. Within five months, the cardinals were so disillusioned with Urban that they returned to Avignon and elected a rival claimant, the antipope Clement VII. The Catholic world fractured in support of rival popes, who frequently excommunicated each other.

## ANTIPOPES

Antipopes didn't only appear during the Western Schism: the first was Hippolytus of Rome, who died in AD 235.

## CARDINAL WIN?

You don't need to be a cardinal to be voted pope, though most are. Any baptised man is eligible for the papacy.

# HOLY MOLY!

## THE POPES THAT GAVE THE PAPACY A BAD NAME

John XII (AD 955-64) was killed by a man who found the pope in bed with his wife.



Alexander VI (1492-1503) is synonymous with iniquity: he was one of the few popes to acknowledge his illegitimate children, was so flagrant about promoting his own family's interests and was surrounded by rumours of murder, poisoning and incest.

Three-time pope Benedict IX is the only pontiff to have sold the papacy (which he did to end his first term in 1044). The price is not recorded.



Power-hungry Boniface VIII (1294-1303) issued a bull declaring that “every human creature be subject to the Roman pontiff”, including kings. He also annoyed the poet Dante so much that the pope can be found in the eighth circle of hell in *Inferno*.

Urban VI (1378-89) moaned that the cardinals he was having tortured on suspicion of plotting against him were not screaming loud enough.



Stephen VI (AD 896-97) really didn't like his predecessor but one, Formosus. He dug up Formosus's corpse, redressed it in papal finery and sat it on a throne, then subjected it to a trial. The inevitably guilty corpse was found to have acceded to the papacy illegally. Stephen cut off Formosus's blessing fingers, reburied him as a layman, then exhumed him a second time and tossed him into the Tiber.



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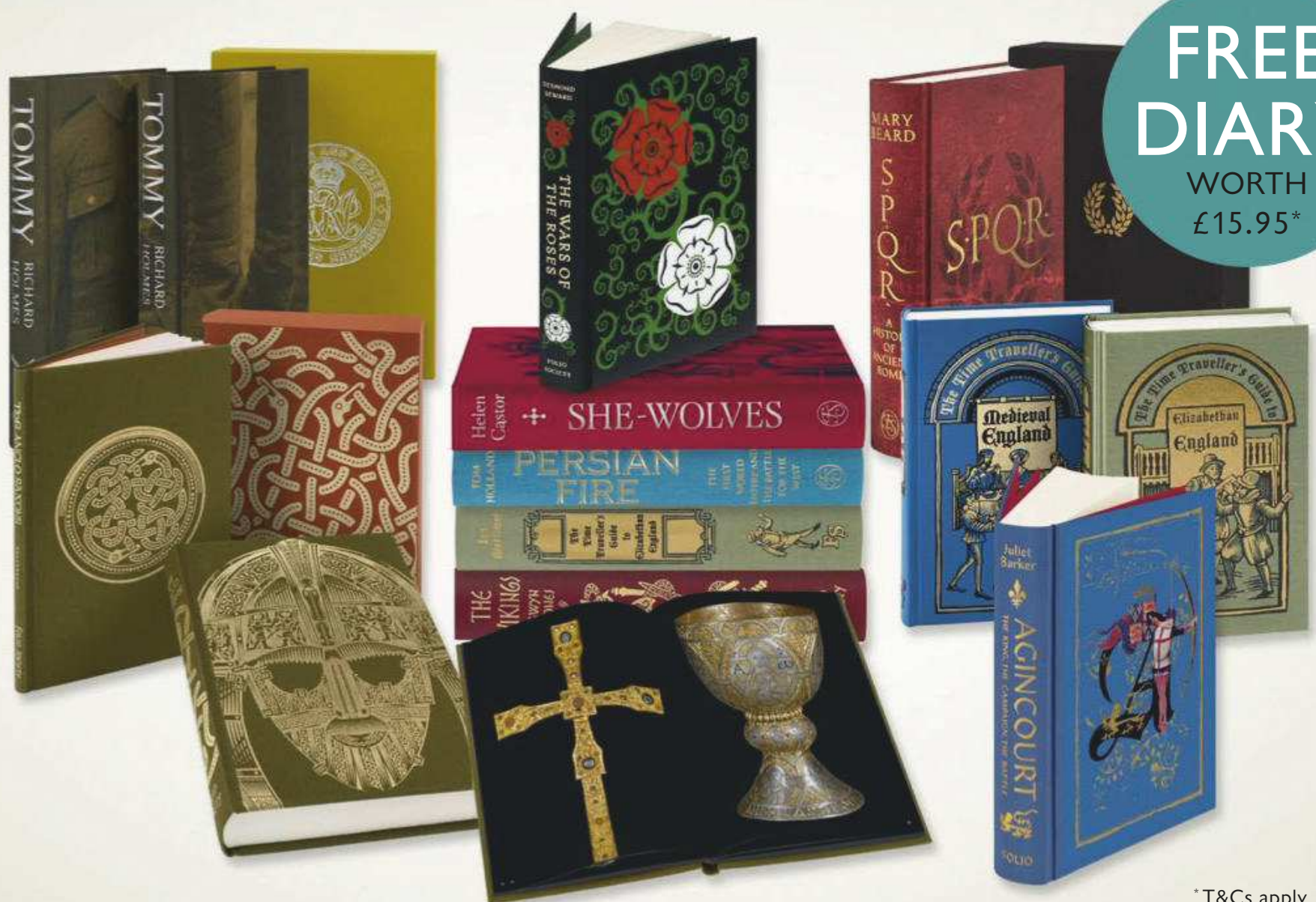
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## SPECIAL REPORT

# The battle for Britain's BATTLEFIELDS

The decision to allow part of the Bosworth battlefield to be built on raises concern about the future of similar historic sites. **Julian Humphrys** of the Battlefields Trust tells us why they're worth saving



A country walk leads to Battle Abbey, built on the site of the Battle of Hastings, where William of Normandy wrested the English crown from Harold Godwinson





**MAIN:** Visitor centres like this one at Culloden, where the Jacobite rising of 1745-46 was finally put down, are attractions in their own right

**LEFT:** Reenactments bring past battles to life for those who want to see how they might have been fought



**T**here are more than 1,000 battlefields in the UK. The most important have been identified by Historic England, Historic Scotland and Cadw in Wales.

In England, there are 47 nationally important registered battle sites. In Scotland, there are 40 such locations, while Wales has 47 priority battle and siege sites.

### Why do battlefields matter?

Historic Scotland summed it up neatly in the introduction to its inventory of battlefields: "Historic battlefields make a distinctive contribution to our sense of place and history,

both locally and nationally. They are a superb resource for education, helping us understand why significant events in our history unfolded as they did ... the ground on which the battles were fought has enormous potential for attracting tourists, as well as for general recreation, allowing visitors to experience the site of a dramatic historical event for themselves and imagine the past."

Most people would agree that battles have played a significant part in Britain's history. The Norman Conquest, which followed the Battle of Hastings in 1066, caused enormous social, political and

cultural change to this country – it even changed our language. Simon De Montfort's victory at Lewes in 1264 led to the earliest forerunner of the Parliament we know today; Robert the Bruce's victory at Bannockburn in 1314 helped to secure Scotland's independence from England; and the civil war battles of the



**Battlefields, and the exhibits that explore them, tell the story of how Britain became what is today**



# “Archaeological projects have helped us learn more about the dispositions of armies”



mid-17th century helped to change both the roles of Crown and Parliament, and the relationship between the component parts of the UK. The reputations of many great leaders were forged on the battlefield: Cromwell’s victories, for example, gave him both the opportunity and the desire to intervene on the national political stage.

## But why bother to preserve the battlefields themselves?

Part of the answer lies in the ground. Battlefields may contain important topographical and archaeological evidence that can help us understand the events that took place on them. Walk along the boggy ground at the foot of the steep slopes of Branxton Hill at Flodden and you’ll quickly understand how, in 1513, the advancing blocks of Scottish pikemen lost cohesion and momentum, floundering to bloody defeat at the hands of the Earl of Surrey’s English billmen.

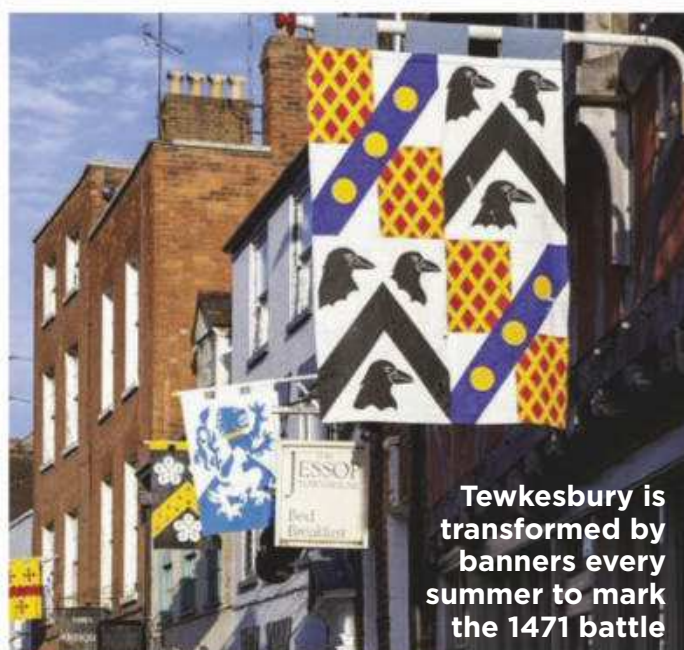
Archaeological projects using metal detecting to locate shot have helped us learn more about the dispositions of the armies at a number of battles including Edgehill, Naseby and Culloden and also helped us better understand the course of those battles. At Bosworth, metal detecting finally unearthed, after years of uncertainty, the actual location of the fighting.

Battlefields can be a focus for community activity. In the Gloucestershire town of Tewkesbury, an active local battlefield society leads regular walks around the site of

RIGHT: A statue stands where Robert the Bruce planted his standard at Bannockburn, the first step to Scottish independence in 1328



Edward IV’s victory in 1471 and every July a festival sees the battle refought by re-enactment groups from all over Europe, watched by thousands of visitors to the town. The society has also produced more than 100 painted banners, each bearing the arms of one of the combatants – for a small fee, the owners of shops and houses in the town



Tewkesbury is transformed by banners every summer to mark the 1471 battle

centre can display one from a bracket on the outside of their buildings.

Those who recently argued in favour of the destruction of part of the historic battlefield of Bosworth – so that a test track for driverless cars could be built – made a lot of the economic benefits that such a development might bring. But it’s important to remember that battlefields can also bring economic benefits to a locality.

The visitor centres at sites like Hastings, Bannockburn and Culloden are all major tourist attractions. Even lesser-known battlefields have a role in building communities. Speaking earlier this year, at the launch of a new trail around the site of the 1487 battle of Stoke, councillor John Cottee of the Nottinghamshire County Council’s Communities and Place Committee said: “Our heritage is important to us and our sense of place. The Battle of Stoke Field history trail aligns perfectly with the County Council’s aspirations to make more of Nottinghamshire’s heritage and tourism offer.”

The council says that tourism contributes £1.8 billion a year to the local economy.





## “Places like Towton are so much more than just fields”

**MAIN:** A stone cross commemorates Flodden, the last battle in which a king of Scotland or England was killed

**ABOVE:** Landscapes can tell us much: this one is the ‘bloody meadow’ the killing field of the Battle of Towton



“Visitors will be encouraged to visit our area, stay longer and enjoy our sites and scenery which all play a part in telling the story of who we are and the role Nottinghamshire has played in shaping the history of our nation,” Cottee adds.

Perhaps most important of all, battlefields are the places where thousands of unknown soldiers fought and died. Occasionally their remains are discovered: in 1996, a mass grave containing remains from 40 bodies was unearthed during building work at Towton in

Yorkshire. They were combatants in the Wars of the Roses battle of 1461. The wounds on the bones are a reminder of the ferocity and brutality of hand-to-hand combat.

Like the fields and cemeteries of Picardy, Flanders and Normandy, places like Towton are so much more than ‘just fields’. They are for many people a focus for contemplation and remembrance, a reminder of the cost of war and of the sacrifices made, not always

willingly, by those who lost their lives in the shaping of this country.

### How are battlefields threatened?

The main threat to battlefields comes from development. The 47 sites on Historic England’s Register of Historic Battlefields, for example, receive no statutory protection as such, although local planning authorities are required to at least take account of the specific historic interest of a battlefield when determining whether to grant permission for development.

Planning rules state that “substantial harm” to a battlefield should be wholly exceptional: in cases of “minor harm” it’s up to the planning committee to weigh up the damage caused

**Treasures recovered from Bosworth include this silver boar badge (left), perhaps belonging to one of Richard III’s knights, and a collection of cannonballs (below)**



A sundial memorial stands at the Battle of Bosworth Visitor Centre





# WHERE IS YOUR NEAREST BATTLEFIELD?

Nearly everyone in Britain lives within an hour's drive of a battlefield. Some, like Hastings, Bannockburn and Bosworth, are familiar to many of us. Others are less well known. Yet the battles fought on them all played their part in shaping the way we live today and that makes them well worth studying – and preserving. To get a feel for a battle, you really need to get out and walk the ground on which it was fought. Here are ten interesting ones to visit.

## 1 MALDON Essex, AD 991

This Viking victory over the Anglo-Saxons by Northey Island is the earliest battle site we can locate with any confidence. There are good views from the shoreline, but make an appointment with the National Trust before crossing the causeway to the island.

## 2 HASTINGS East Sussex, 1066

One of the key sites in England's history. The remains of the abbey founded by the victorious William the Conqueror marks the centre of the fighting, and you can climb to the roof of its gatehouse for a bird's-eye view of the area.

## 3 TOWTON North Yorkshire, 1461

Fought in a blizzard, Towton was the scene of a crushing Lancastrian defeat by the Yorkist forces of Edward IV. The local battlefield society has installed excellent information panels.

## 4 TEWKESBURY Gloucestershire, 1471

The town becomes a riot of colour in the summer, when many of its shops fly banners painted with the arms of some of those who took part in this Wars of the Roses battle.

## 5 FLODDEN Northumberland, 1513

It was here that James IV of Scotland was defeated and killed by an English army under the Earl of Surrey. There's a excellent walking trail marked by information boards.

## 6 PINKIE CLEUGH East Lothian, 1547

The last major battle fought between England and Scotland before the Union of the Crowns in 1603, and with 40,000 men involved it was the largest fought on Scottish soil. A walking trail takes you round the scene of the action.



## 7 MONTGOMERY Powys, 1644

The biggest battle fought in Wales during the British Civil Wars and a major victory for Parliament. Climb up to nearby Montgomery Castle for excellent views of the battlefield.

## 8 NASEBY Northamptonshire, 1645

A decisive victory for Parliament in the British Civil Wars. You can see much by looking over hedges, but there's an excellent trail supported by information panels and viewing platforms.

## 9 SEDGEMOOR Somerset, 1685

The atmospheric site of the last major pitched battle in England, where the royal army of James II saw off a night attack by the Duke of Monmouth's rebels. Westonzoyland Church was used as a prison after the battle and now houses a visitor centre.

## 10 CULLODEN Highlands, 1746

The last pitched battle on British soil saw the bloody defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobites by a government army. An award-winning visitor centre helps to tell the story.

against the public benefit of a development. But the question of what 'substantial' and 'minor' harm actually is remains open to interpretation. During the recent Bosworth case, the applicants argued that because the area that was going to be destroyed was only a small percentage of the registered battlefield, then the harm wasn't substantial. Battlefield experts disagreed, pointing out that the historical importance of the area under threat was out of all proportion to its size.

There's also the risk of incremental damage, where a series of applications are passed over time. The damage each one individually causes may be minor, but the harm they cause when added together may be extremely serious.

### Is Bosworth a one-off?

It's unlikely. In 2017, campaigners saw off plans to build houses on the small but important battlefield at Chalgrove in Oxfordshire. Other sites also remain under threat – including the Civil War battlefield of Winwick, where a proposed warehouse development could destroy 20 per cent of the site. In Scotland, nationally important sites such as Culloden and Prestonpans are under development pressure. 📍

Julian Humphrys is development officer at the Battlefields Trust, which campaigns for the protection of Britain's historic battlefields. Learn more about the Trust's work at [www.battlefieldstrust.com](http://www.battlefieldstrust.com).





# The King obsessed with witches

Once you had been accused of witchcraft in late 16th-century Britain, there was usually only one way out: the grave. **Emma Slattery Williams** asks historian Suzannah Lipscomb why James VI and I feared them so





The King watches on as a group of women suspected of witchcraft are beaten in front of him



**T**he year is 1590, and in Scotland an extraordinary event is taking place – the North Berwick Witch Trials. A group of at least 70 people, mostly women, stand accused of witchcraft.

Agnes Sampson is one of them. After enduring days of torture, she has confessed to conspiring with the devil against the King – James VI of Scotland (who will later also become James I of England). What makes this particular trial stand out is that the King is personally presiding over proceedings. Having been condemned, Sampson is lashed to a stake, where she is strangled and burned.

Over the next century, Scotland alone will see more than 3,000 people accused of witchcraft, and the hysteria will spread across Britain. The belief in magic had been part of societies across the globe for centuries, yet the persecution

of witches in 16th- and 17th-century Britain was unprecedented and merciless.

What was behind kings and popes becoming involved in the matter, which served to legitimise a terrifying and seemingly very real threat from witches? Historian Dr Suzannah Lipscomb, author of a new book on the subject, suggests that it was the King's obsession that led to this panic: "The fact that we've got these massive witch trials in 1590–91 comes from James's enthusiasm for witch trials; he thinks witches are treacherously attacking him."

### MAGIC AND MEDICINE

In medieval and early-modern Britain, people believed in supernatural powers that governed their lives. Many communities had 'cunning-folk' who could provide a love potion or healing plants.

These magical healers also provided protection from evil spirits or witches, who were believed to be in league with the devil.

Magical belief was an accepted part of everyday life across Europe. Royalty would have nativity horoscopes created at their birth to ensure they were destined for greatness. People believed that the world around them was a medieval cosmos where the signs of the zodiac ruled over corresponding parts of the body, which were governed by the planets. The Moon controlled the blood, for example, which is why physicians were required by law to calculate the Moon's position before performing any operations.

It was a time in which superstition and religious belief went hand-in-hand. Belief in God also meant belief in the devil, and servants of the devil could manifest themselves as witches. Unexplained tragedies and events were often attributed to these dark and magical powers.

"There was no real gap between medical knowledge at the higher end of society and that at the lower end of society," says Lipscomb. "Even Henry VIII was making his own potions and remedies, which included things like worms, gold and rose water; the making of potions was going on at the highest levels." John Dee, a favourite of Elizabeth I, was often consulted by the Queen on astrology, to predict the future of her reign.

But the 16th century also saw a rising fear of witches, leading to accusations and executions of those supposed to be plying the devil's iniquities. What happened to cause such an outpouring of persecution? Lipscomb proposes that we are actually asking the wrong question: "Once you get the whole picture, you start to realise the question is not why it happened, but why it didn't happen more than it did. And it happened on a pretty big scale."

### A SPARK IGNITES

There isn't one reason that caused a surge of witch trials, but the convergence of several that made finding a bogeyman to blame for the world's ills an attractive proposition. Society was built on the reliance of order; the fear of witchcraft can be seen as the anxiety of a disordered and chaotic society.

England and Scotland were going through a massive religious upheaval. With the Reformation and Counter-Reformation as a backdrop, beliefs were being questioned. Poor harvests, poverty

**"Many communities had 'cunning-folk' who could provide a love potion or healing plants"**



The North Berwick witches were said to hold their covens in the town's churchyard





#### MAGIC AT COURT?

John Dee - astrologer, philosopher and student of the occult - advised Elizabeth I on everything from politics to astrology.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

People used to hide shoes in their chimneys and knives in their walls to protect themselves from witches.

and disease were all too frequent. It's a natural human reaction to try and find blame in turbulent times. People suffered and they wanted it to be for a purpose. Trying to explain a tragedy led to finger-pointing and the suggestions of a curse. Lipscomb defines it as making the inexplicable explicable. "Magic is something people turn to when they're trying to control circumstances that are out of their control," she says.

Communities would often have outcasts living on the fringes of society - women who had children out of wedlock, mentally disturbed people, or just those who had a suspicious air about them. It takes years for negative reputations to build up, but rumours and gossip were key to an accusation of witchcraft. Having the 'devil's mark' would also single you out as a potential witch - these could be scars, birthmarks or moles, which were often seen as a branding from the devil.

Imagine that two neighbours quarrel and that, a day or so after their argument, the child of one of them becomes seriously ill. The parent of the child blames the neighbour for cursing them and starts talking about the years of rumours about them. Out of this, the seeds of a witchcraft accusation have been sown.

Accusations stuck easier if rumours and gossip had followed someone around for years. But Lipscomb

also suggests that, among all the other factors that aided the cultivation of witchcraft accusations, having compliant governments willing to act was vital: "It's this really complex mixture of economic factors and religious turmoil," she says, "but then you also need authorities who are willing to listen and people who are arguing with each other."

While many of those accused of witchcraft professed their innocence, there were some cases of guilty pleas. Torture was often used to gain a confession, but there were instances of confession without torture.

Margaret Moore was one of these. After enduring the death of three of her children, Moore admitted to making

**Some believed that demons physically marked witches as servants of the devil**

### The most wonderfull and true storie, of a certaine Witch named *Alse Gooderige* of *Stapen hill*, who was arraigned and conuicted at *Darbie* at the *Assises* there.

*As also a true report of the strange torments of Thomas Darling, a boy of thirteene yeres of age, that was possessed by the Deuill, with his horrible fittes and terrible Apparitions by him vttered at Burton vpon Trent in the Countie of Stafford, and of his maruelous detiuerance.*



Printed at London for I. O. 1597.

BIBLIOTHECA



Mary Queen of Scots was executed on the orders of Elizabeth I. Her death is said to have haunted James, her son



a pact with the devil to spare the life of her surviving child, and she was hanged in Ely in 1647. Many of those accused were old, lonely and poor – they may have genuinely believed that they had given up their soul to a demon, or simply wanted to avoid the humiliation and pain of a trial or torture.

Among those who lent weight to the witchcraft debate was King James VI

of Scotland, for whom witchcraft had become an obsession.

### JITTERY JAMES

Growing up, James was noted as having a fearful and superstitious nature. Both his parents – Mary Queen of Scots and Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley – had suffered violent

## DAEMONOLOGIE, IN FORME of a Dialogue,

Divided into three Bookes.



EDINBURGH

Printed by Robert Walde-graue

Printer to the Kings Majestic. An. 1597.

*Cum Privilegio Regio.*

James wrote this treatise to educate his people on why they should hunt witches

deaths. His mother's execution, in particular, haunted him throughout his life – he had experienced visions of her bloodied head years before her beheading. Raised by Protestant Scottish nobles, he was taught to condemn his mother, leading to a suspicion and antagonism towards women in general which may have fuelled his fear of witches.

James's fascination with witchcraft can be pinpointed to his travels to Denmark in 1589. His bride was Anne of Denmark, but during her voyage to England, her ship was delayed by a storm. James, anxious for her safety, travelled across the North Sea himself with the intention of rescuing her.

Arriving safely, and marrying Anne a few days later, James considered a tricky winter voyage back but thought better of it. For the next few months, Anne and James travelled across Denmark, meeting many intellectuals and astrologers, including the demonologist Niels Hemmingsen. Witch-hunting was commonplace in Denmark and James was enthralled by lengthy debates on the occult during his time there.

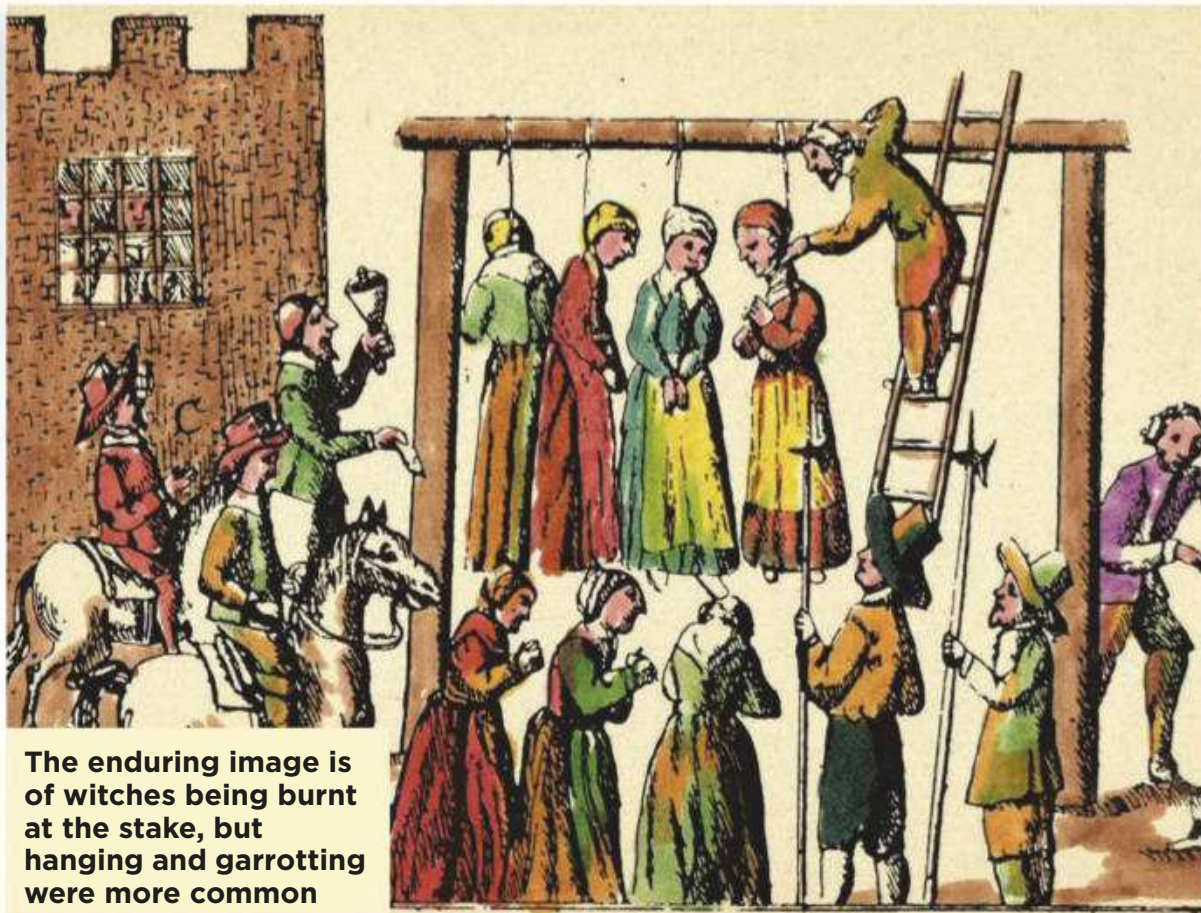
## WHO WERE THE WITCHES?

The word 'witch' conjures an image of an ugly old woman riding a broom. However, witches weren't always female. In Britain, about 10 per cent of accused witches were men, and there were cases of clergymen being accused and executed for witchcraft. In Russia and Iceland, the majority of accused witches were male, typically undesirable vagrants who travelled from place to place. Women were overwhelmingly singled out in Britain because they were believed to be weaker and more susceptible to the temptations of the devil.



Men were accused of witchcraft and tortured too – but in smaller numbers than women in Britain





The enduring image is of witches being burnt at the stake, but hanging and garrotting were more common

## “James saw English law regarding witchcraft as too lenient”

By the spring, James realised he could no longer leave his duties in Scotland to others. Even though the weather had improved, a great storm threatened to derail their journey and a ship was lost. With an ignited fervour, James blamed witches for cursing his fleet, and when he eventually arrived back in Scotland, the witch hunts began.

The North Berwick Witch Trials would be the most brutal that Scotland had ever seen. James became convinced that Scottish witches had concocted an evil plot against him, and more than 70 suspected witches – including Agnes Sampson – were arrested. Many of those who confessed did so after torture was used, and a number died from the injuries sustained in their ordeals before they could be executed.

Once the trials had ended, James ensured that his account of events was spread far and wide to reinforce his people’s fear of witches. In 1597, he published *Daemonologie*, the only time a reigning monarch has publicly discussed the existence of witches and supernatural beings. His aim was to disprove the sceptics, and it appeared to work – accusations of witchcraft multiplied rapidly. Many of the fates of those accused are unknown, but what records we do have suggest around two-thirds of those found guilty were executed.

James had already ruled Scotland for more than 30 years when he ascended the English throne in 1603, and when he did so he set about changing the law regarding witchcraft, which he saw as too lenient.

### ON TO ENGLAND

The Witchcraft Act of 1604 saw hanging become mandatory for any offences of witchcraft – even if murder had not been committed. The discovery of the devil’s mark on the accused’s body was also enough to condemn them to death. James’s influence was felt long into the Stuart period, with Lipscomb suggesting that the infamous trials at Salem can even be traced back to him.

The Gunpowder Plot against James in 1605 led to a mass hysteria, and a fear of Catholicism as well as the demonic. Catholicism relied on mystical elements and Catholic priests were vilified as sorcerers who practiced necromancy. The hunt for witches can be seen as an eradication of a superstitious religion and a cause that would unite the King with his people.

The 1640s saw a resurgence in accusations against so-called witches,

## WHEN FACT BECOMES FICTION

Shakespeare’s play *Macbeth* was inspired by James’s personal crusade against witches, and went on to inspire the stereotypical image of the witch concocting spells and potions over a bubbling cauldron. The witches in the play even discuss raising storms to ensure a sailor’s journey is “tempest tossed” – an allusion to James’s fear that witches had caused a storm intent on killing him. The first known performance of *Macbeth* was in 1611 – though there’s a popular rumour that it was in 1606, coinciding with the visit of James’s brother-in-law, King Christian IV of Denmark, the potential source of James’s witchcraft obsession.

The allure of witches and magic endures in literature and film – from *Harry Potter* and Gandalf the Grey to *Doctor Strange* and *Nanny McPhee*, it seems we are still enthralled by the idea of supernatural powers and those who wield them.



The witches of *Macbeth* toy with the crown he covets as they fly across the sky on brooms and... goats



The gunpowder plotters – their failure tied Catholicism to the witch hunts

especially in Essex and East Anglia. Self-proclaimed ‘witch-finder general’ Matthew Hopkins roamed the country as a witch-hunter for hire. He used questionable methods of inquisition, forcing confessions and is believed to



have been responsible for the deaths of around 300 women.

## THE AGE OF SCEPTICISM

By the early 18th century, belief in witchcraft had almost died out in Britain. Authorities became sceptical and cases didn't make it through the courts. In their place, there were rare instances of lynch mobs, where communities would put accused witches on trial themselves. In 1736, the laws against witchcraft were repealed, but fines were still imposed for those claiming to have magical powers.

The last recorded execution of a witch in England was in Devon in 1685; in Scotland, it was 1722. Yet still superstition and belief hung on in isolated and rural communities. In 1875, in Warwickshire, James Haywood was tried for the murder of Ann Tennant, who he believed to be a witch. He was found to be criminally insane and sent to Broadmoor Asylum, but his opinion of Tennant, according to court records, was also held by many of his neighbours. Witch trials do still go on

in parts of the world today, including Africa and Saudi Arabia.

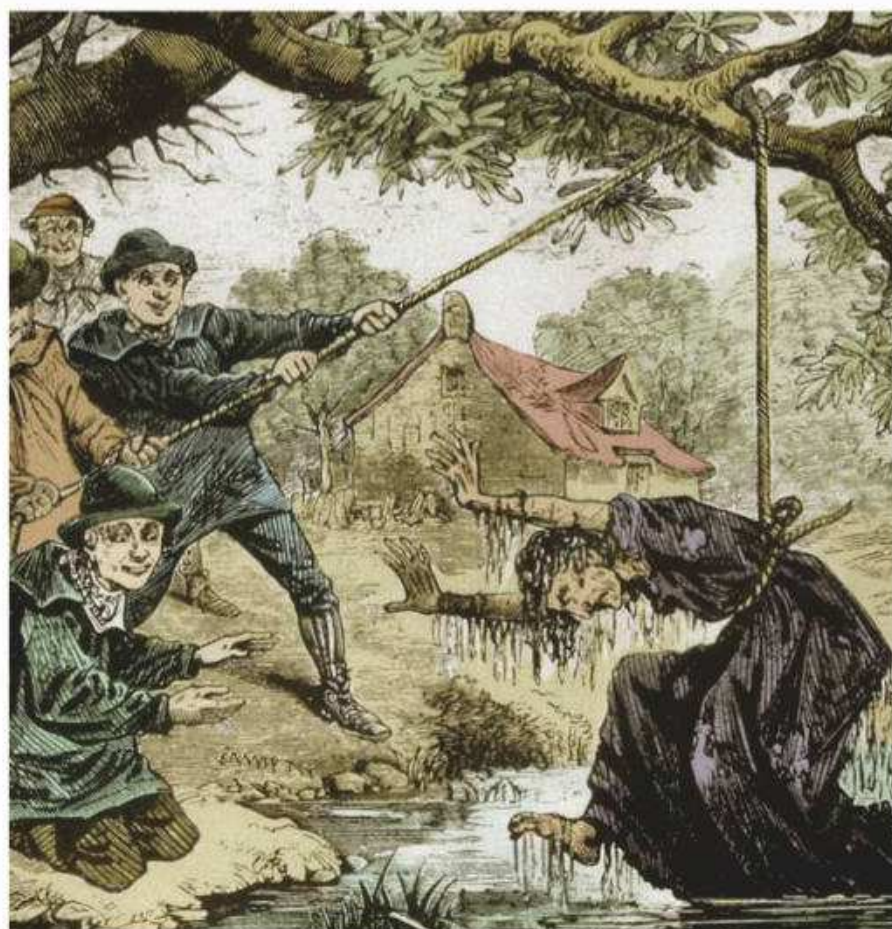
Magical thinking hasn't completely left us. The Spellbound exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford explores how – for many of us – superstition still plays a part in our lives. From refusing to walk under a ladder and to wearing lucky underwear for an interview, they are ingrained in our society. The locks on bridges across the world show how many still believe in a magical power that can control our love lives.

Lipscomb believes lessons can be learnt from the witch trials of the past: “The vast majority of people accused of being witches were weaker or less well-off, and so I think it should make us think about how we treat other people. In what ways are we persecuting people, even if they're not wearing pointy hats?”

## GET HOOKED

### READ

Suzannah Lipscomb's *Witchcraft: A Ladybird Expert Book* (Penguin, 2018) is a pocket-sized introduction to the topic



Margaret 'Peg' Grover of Newport was another latter-day victim of suspected witchcraft. In 1876, after a girl died suddenly in her village, she was tied up and dunked in a nearby river by locals. She was eventually rescued

# A WITCH'S TROVE

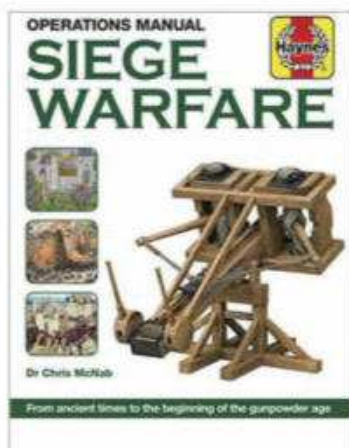
An exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford explores witchcraft through the ages and demonstrates how magical thinking has been a part of society for centuries. Spellbound: Magic, Ritual & Witchcraft is on until 6 January 2019



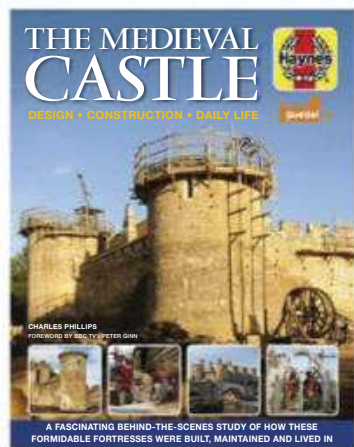
- 1: The frontispiece of Matthew Hopkins' *The Discovery of Witches*, published in 1647, illustrating witches' familiars
- 2: Elizabeth I's astrologer John Dee used this crystal for 'scrying', which is fortune telling using a reflective object
- 3: Bull's heart pierced with nails, forming a talisman against a curse
- 4: Supposedly a witch in a bottle – it has never been opened
- 5: Human heart in a lead case, found hidden in a pillar in Christ's Church in Cork, dating to the 12th or 13th century



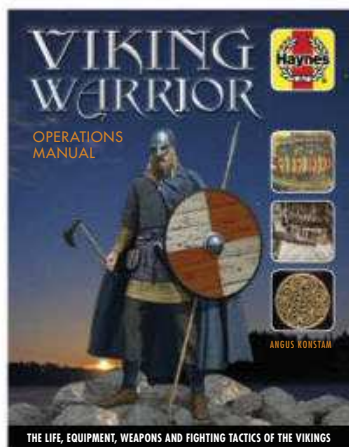
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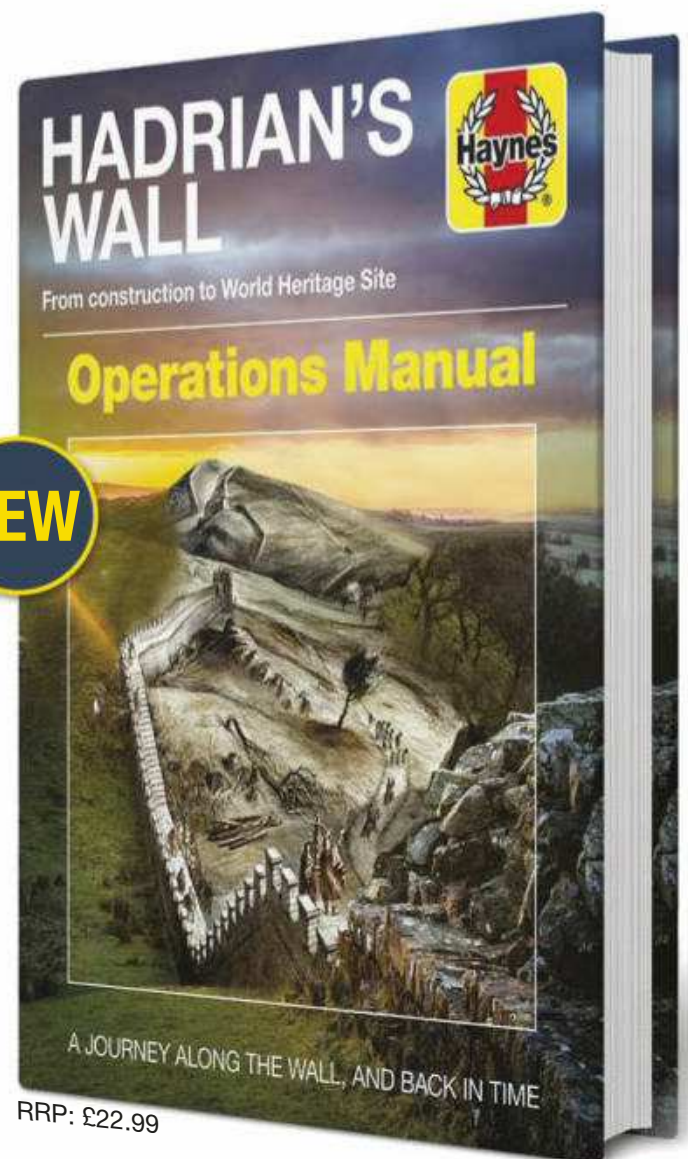
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# APOLLO 8

## FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON

**David Woods** follows the trail of the first men who went to the Moon – not to land, but simply to see if humans could get there and back again in one piece. Their rushed mission, inspired by a Cold War-fuelled will to outdo the Russians, was a glimmer of light in the dark



The most famous image  
from the mission was  
this one - Earthrise -  
revealing both our  
planet's isolation  
and its fragility





**T**'was the night before Christmas in 1968, the end of a traumatic year for the US that had borne witness to political assassinations, student riots and war in the Far East. But, 400,000km away, a tiny American spaceship was orbiting the Moon. The cramped cabin of Apollo 8 was occupied by three astronauts who had travelled more than 250 times farther from Earth than any human had before.

After three full orbits, as they appeared from behind the Moon, commander Frank Borman rolled the spacecraft around. It was then that lunar module pilot Bill Anders unexpectedly caught sight of Earth rising from behind the lunar horizon. "Oh, my God! Look at that picture over there!" he exclaimed in amazement. "Here's the Earth coming up. Wow, is that pretty!"

Earth looked like a colourful Christmas bauble of blues and browns,

sprinkled with white, set against the black of space and the grey, forbidding lunar landscape. Anders snapped a photograph with black and white film, though he knew it couldn't capture the beauty of this exceptional sight.

He hustled command module pilot Jim Lovell. "You got a colour film, Jim? Hand me that roll of colour quick, would you." One of the two pictures he then took was the first colour earthrise photograph taken by a human. It became one of the 20th century's most iconic images, thought by many to be a catalyst for the environmental movement.

Apollo 8 had arrived six hours earlier. As it passed midway around the lunar far side, over mountain tops lit by a setting Sun, its main engine had fired, slowing sufficiently to remain in the Moon's gravitational clutches. Apollo 8 had taken Borman, Anders and Lovell to where no men had gone before. They would make ten revolutions of this hostile, battered



**Lovell, Anders and Borman became the first humans to travel beyond low-Earth orbit**

world before relighting their engine to come home. It was a moment that kept managers awake at night, because if it failed they would be stuck orbiting the Moon forever.

## MEN OF COURAGE

Apollo 8's crew were all high-achieving military pilots. Borman was in charge: a straight-talking, hard-driving man.

His first spaceflight was on Gemini 7 in late 1965. Just over a year later, in January 1967, he had suffered the loss of his closest friend, astronaut Ed White, when an oxygen-fed fire consumed the Apollo 1 cabin during a test. Borman testified before Congress on NASA's push to recover from the setback. To him, Apollo was a battle in the Cold War against the Soviets and he brought a military mindset to his preparations.

Borman's hard edge was in contrast to friendly and gregarious Jim Lovell, the command module pilot. As a boy, Lovell had dreamed of spaceflight and had kept faithful to this dream throughout his military and test pilot career. An easygoing man, he was the perfect foil to Borman, which helped when they spent two weeks sharing the cramped confines of Gemini 7. His role on Apollo 8 was as the ship's navigator, sighting on the stars like a celestial mariner to guide the ship through space.

Bill Anders brought an academic science background to the trio. He was the 'rookie', having never flown in space before. Officially, he was the lunar module pilot, though he had no lunar module – the odd-looking lander of future Apollo missions was not yet ready to fly. Instead, he was to monitor the spacecraft's systems and act as photographer. To some, Anders seemed like a younger Borman, and he took the mission's propaganda role very seriously.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The transmission from one of Apollo 8's orbits of the Moon on Christmas Eve was watched by an estimated half a billion people, around one-seventh of the world's population at the time. The broadcast went on to win an Emmy.



**The command module formed half of the Apollo CSM – this was the part the crew were strapped in**

NASA X5





**“NASA’S APPROACH WAS TO FLY A PROGRESSION OF MISSIONS THAT WOULD LEAD TO A LUNAR LANDING”**

For six days, they were cooped up inside the command module, a cone of three by four metres. It sat at one end of the service module, a cylinder with a rocket nozzle at the opposite end. This combined command/service module (CSM) was only one part of the Apollo system. The other was Anders’ missing lunar module. Its absence was the reason that Borman and his crew found themselves around the Moon at Christmas.

## STUCK IN THE MIRE

There were many difficulties in the Apollo story: some tragic, most technical. By mid-1967, Kennedy’s deadline of placing a man on the Moon by the end of the decade was approaching, and NASA was in a dark place. It was running out of time to individually test the three rocket stages of the gargantuan Saturn V – the

new launch vehicle being built to send men to the Moon. NASA instead opted to test the rocket stages exhaustively on the ground, then fly the whole lot in one go, so-called ‘all-up’ testing. But the Saturn V would have to prove itself twice before carrying humans.

NASA’s more general approach was to fly a progression of missions that would lead to a lunar landing. It began in November 1967 with Apollo 4, the first test of the Saturn V. The rocket acquitted itself astoundingly well, barely missing a beat as it ascended to space. Its second flight, Apollo 6, was not as smooth: the Saturn V’s first stage chugged in a pogo-like manner that would have shaken a crew senseless. Worse, two of the five second-stage engines failed.

Apollo 6 managed to limp to orbit, but there was a litany of other problems. Senior NASA manager Christopher



**ABOVE: The Saturn V’s first stage, the S-IC, was the most powerful: it had to get the 3,000-tonne, fully laden rocket off the ground**

**TOP: The crew spent seven hours training for every hour of flight**

**ABOVE LEFT: The crew needed to wear their suits as they ascended to space but they were removed after a few hours, never to be worn again**

Kraft would later describe Apollo 6 as a “catastrophic failure”, but in a tour-de-force of engineering detective work, each problem was addressed. NASA determined that the next flight of the Saturn V would be manned.

Apollo 7, the first Apollo mission to carry a crew into space, didn’t involve a Saturn V: that mission saw a smaller (two-stage) Saturn IB launch the CSM and its three astronauts into low-Earth orbit.

The intention was the next mission in the sequence, Apollo 8, would repeat this feat with a fully capable lunar module, the craft that would eventually ferry humans down to the lunar surface. But by the summer of 1968, NASA faced more problems. Grumman, the lunar module’s manufacturer, was struggling. The extremely thin wire used to save weight was prone to breaking.



Borman waves as he leads the Apollo 8 crew out to the launch pad

## DID YOU KNOW?

The night before the launch, the aviator Charles Lindbergh – who had made the first non-stop solo flight across the Atlantic – visited the Apollo 8 crew. He quipped that they would use ten times more fuel in a second than he did for his historic flight.

“LAUNCH PREPARATIONS WENT SO SMOOTHLY THAT ANDERS FELL ASLEEP IN THE SPACECRAFT AWAITING LIFT-OFF”

Structural components, milled down to the bare minimum, suffered fractures. A crucial engine, which had to lift two astronauts off the Moon, was unstable.

At best, the lander would not be ready until February 1969, leaving managers in a quandary. Apollo 8's CSM was ready to go, but a repeat of Apollo 7 would be a waste of time. So would holding off until Grumman solved their problems.

In August, NASA manager George Low conjured up an audacious workaround. Apollo 8 was to have tested the complete Apollo stack – that is, the CSM and lunar module combined – in low-Earth orbit. Since they lacked a lander, why not send just the CSM into high-Earth orbit? For that matter, why not go all the way to the Moon?

Apollo 8's new mission would use a free-return trajectory, a fail-safe path that looped around the Moon so that, without intervention, the spacecraft would return directly to Earth. Low's idea continued to blossom. If all was well, why not also enter lunar orbit and reconnoitre possible landing sites? Such knowledge

would, in any case, be required for the lunar landing.

Low secretly shared his idea with a small cadre of managers, but NASA's politically astute administrator, James Webb, was aghast at the suggestion. He eventually agreed provided that they wait until Apollo 7 had flown successfully in October. In the meantime, Apollo 8 was to be mentioned only in terms of being an Earth-orbital mission.

As well as a huge morale boost to the programme's massive workforce, a successful Apollo 8 would have geopolitical benefits. In September, the Soviet Union had successfully sent a spacecraft around the Moon with a collection of animals aboard. Would the next flight be crewed? It would be a coup for the Soviets to claim they had reached the Moon first, puncturing the prestige of an American landing.

## DAY OF RECKONING

Launch was on 21 December 1968. Final preparations, simulated endlessly, had gone so smoothly that Anders fell asleep in the spacecraft awaiting lift-off. But simulations could not prepare them



NASA was under pressure from the Soviets, who in September 1968 sent a small menagerie around the Moon in its Zond 5 spacecraft

for the fury of the first stage. As the spectacular and near flawless Saturn V rose, it shook them from side to side. Anders quipped that it was “like an old freight train going down a bad track”.

Aside from Lovell's inadvertent inflation of a lifevest, all was well once they reached Earth orbit. With checks of the spacecraft complete, they relit the Saturn's third stage and headed for the Moon to become the first humans to swap Earth's gravitational hold for that of another celestial body.

Continues on p50



A successful launch didn't mean the astronauts were on a path for the Moon. It took another two and a half hours in Earth orbit before the go-ahead was given for the rocket burn that sent Apollo 8 on its lunar trajectory





# DESTINATION MOON

## HOW THE APOLLO MISSIONS UNFOLDED

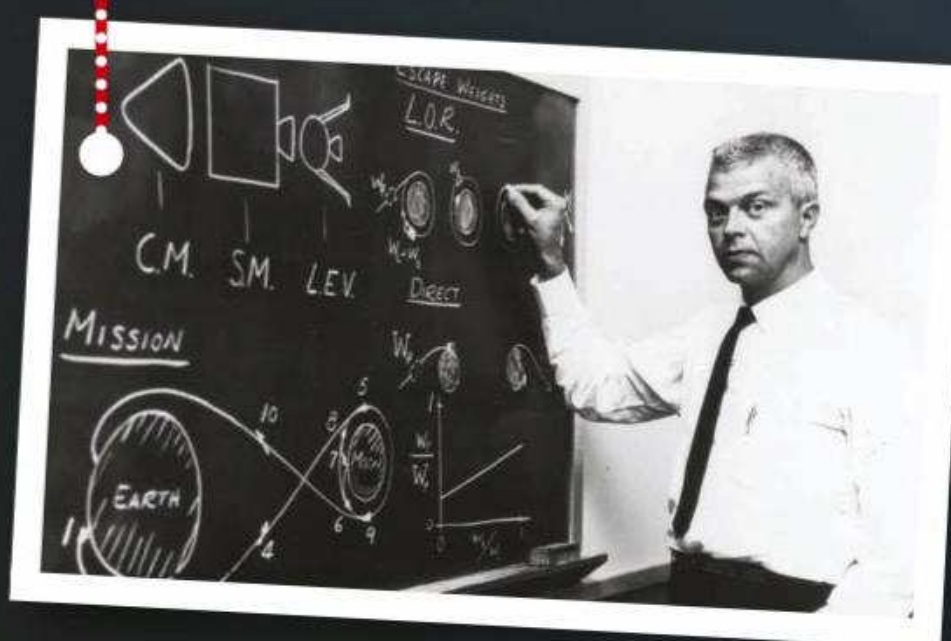
**25 MAY 1961**

President John F Kennedy challenges the US to land a man on the Moon and return him safely to Earth "before this decade is out".



**11 JULY 1962**

NASA determines the means by which a lunar landing will be accomplished: the 'lunar orbit rendezvous', in which a main spacecraft and smaller lander are sent to lunar orbit.



**27 JANUARY 1967**

Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee are killed when an oxygen-fed fire engulfs their cabin during a ground test. The mission is posthumously named Apollo 1.

**9 NOVEMBER 1967**

The Saturn V flies for the first time. The mission, dubbed Apollo 4, is a complete success.



**16-27 APRIL 1972**

Apollo 16 visits the Descartes Highlands in search of volcanism on another scientifically productive mission.

**26 JULY - 7 AUGUST 1971**

Apollo 15 lands close to Hadley Rille, an ancient lava channel on a plain between two mountains. Staying for three days, its crew use an electric lunar rover to explore farther afield.

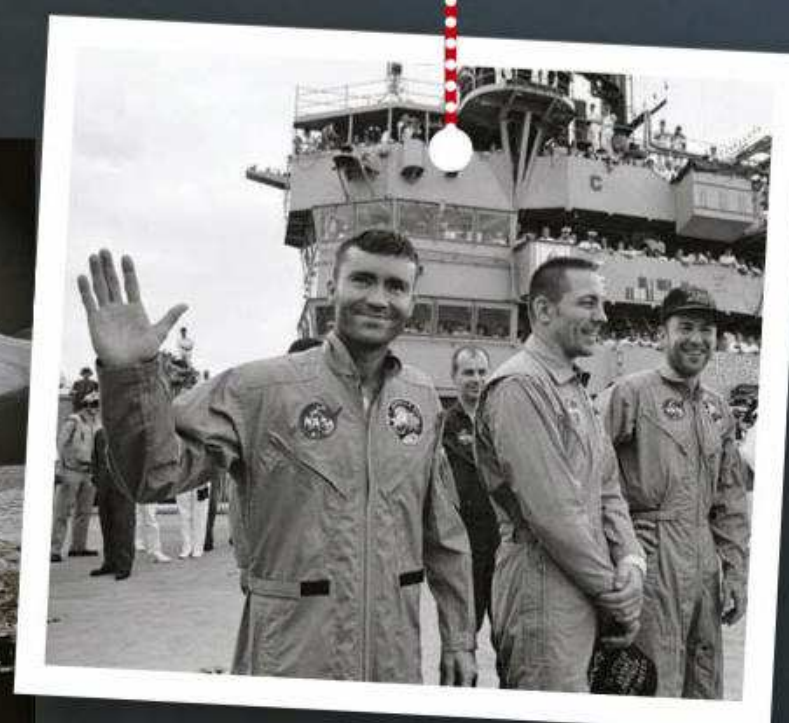


**31 JANUARY - 9 FEBRUARY 1971**

NASA returns to the Moon with the successful flight of Apollo 14. Alan Shepard lands near a fresh crater, their science objective, in the Fra Mauro highlands.

**11-17 APRIL 1970**

Apollo 13 limps back to Earth after an oxygen tank explodes within its service module on the way to the Moon. To return to Earth, the crew (*below*) use their lunar module as a lifeboat.



**7-19 DECEMBER 1972**

The Apollo lunar programme draws to a close with Apollo 17's landing in the spectacular valley of Taurus-Littrow. For the first time, a professional geologist, Harrison Schmitt (*right, with Gene Cernan*), visits the surface.





## 22 JANUARY 1968

Lifted into orbit on a smaller rocket, the lunar module flies for the first time as Apollo 5. This mission is unmanned.



## 4 APRIL 1968

Apollo 6, the Saturn V's second test flight, exhibits major problems and is classed as a failure.



## 11-22 OCTOBER 1968

Apollo 7 tests the Apollo command/service module (CSM) in low-Earth orbit.



## 21-27 DECEMBER 1968

Apollo 8 sends a CSM all the way to the Moon. It completes ten orbits before returning.

## 14-24 NOVEMBER 1969

Apollo 12 makes a precision landing next to the defunct Surveyor 3 unmanned probe. The crew deploys the first comprehensive science station on the surface.



## 16-24 JULY 1969

Apollo 11 carries out the first manned lunar landing, touching down on the Mare Tranquillitatis. Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the Moon, followed by Buzz Aldrin (*below*).



## 18-26 MAY 1969

Apollo 10 takes the lunar module to the Moon to carry out a complete dress rehearsal of a landing mission, except for the final descent to the surface.

## 3-13 MARCH 1969

Apollo 9 carries out a complete test of the entire Apollo spacecraft system, including the lunar module, in the safety of Earth orbit.





The race to the stars was born of a more earthly concern: a fear that the Soviets could launch a nuclear missile

## FROM ARMS RACE TO SPACE RACE

The mushroom clouds at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 signalled both the end of World War II and the dawn of the atomic age, from which emerged the Cold War. The two superpowers, the US and the Soviet Union, knew that with the terrifying destructive power of nuclear weapons they could not risk all-out war, but that did not prevent an arms race in a tense competition for supremacy. Both sides strived to demonstrate how they had the superior weapons technology, delivery systems and, ultimately, political ideology.

The launch of Sputnik in 1957 – around the time they also tested intercontinental ballistic missiles – gave the Soviets a distinct advantage and spread fear in the US. If the Russians could put a satellite into space, then they could

launch rockets with nuclear warheads. This led to an unfounded belief in a ‘missile gap’, not helped by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev’s boast that his country was “turning out missiles like sausages”.

The US needed to respond, so poured huge amounts of money and resources into sending up their own satellites and eventually astronauts. Space became an arena for the Cold War. The race to the stars had all the opportunities to demonstrate technological and national prowess – along with a lurking threat – but without the nuclear Armageddon.

By the early 1960s, the Soviets were still winning the Space Race, leading President John F Kennedy to announce a bold goal for the US space programme: landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely.

large, complex engine without error to get them home.

“What does the ole Moon look like from 60 miles?” Capsule communicator Jerry Carr on Earth was keen to discover what the intrepid explorers could see. “The Moon is essentially grey, no colour,” replied Lovell. “Looks like plaster of Paris or sort of a grayish beach sand.”

A busy schedule of tasks had been planned for humankind’s first foray to the vicinity of another world. Lovell checked out NASA’s favoured landing sites, Anders concentrated on lunar photography and Borman manned the spacecraft’s controls.

As Apollo 8 approached its final few orbits, Borman noticed that tiredness was taking its toll. The upcoming engine burn that would send them home was unforgiving, so he informed mission control that the flight plan, for now, was toast. “We’re scrubbing everything ... I want Jim and Bill to get some rest.” He then sent his crew to bed. Anders, always keen, pushed back but Borman stood firm. “God damn it, go to bed! To hell with the other stuff! We’ll bust our ass for it.” Lovell and Anders acceded and as Christmas day approached, all was quiet aboard Apollo 8.

When the spacecraft appeared around the Moon’s limb on the penultimate orbit, a great dish antenna on Earth was ready to receive a television signal. As images of passing craters flickered into view, Lovell announced, “Welcome from the Moon, Houston.” For the next 23 minutes, Borman directed an extraordinary broadcast from the spacecraft.

Knowing the historic significance of the flight and given his own faith and the Christmas season, he had arranged a climax to the show. As the landscape

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Apollo 8 mission was a ray of hope in a turbulent year for the US. Civil rights leader Martin Luther King and presidential candidate Bobby Kennedy had been assassinated, the Vietnam War had escalated and the Soviets had crushed the Prague Spring.

Soon the flight plan began to fall apart. Borman fell ill with vomiting and diarrhoea, this at a time when Hong Kong flu was rampant and had killed thousands. Normally never motion sick, Borman was appalled that his condition might threaten to abort the mission. As those on the ground wrung their hands, Apollo 8 coasted farther from home and Anders marvelled at the physics of a blob

of weightless vomit that approached him.

Borman recovered and the flight settled down. But living so close together wrecked their sleeping schedule. With at least one crew member on watch at all times, the incessant chit-chat from the ground disturbed the others and sleep deprivation soon set in. As Christmas Eve and their rendezvous with the Moon arrived, Borman worried about how they would cope in lunar orbit. They had 20 hours of intense activity ahead, at the end of which, they would have to operate a



The crew captured candid moments with handheld cameras

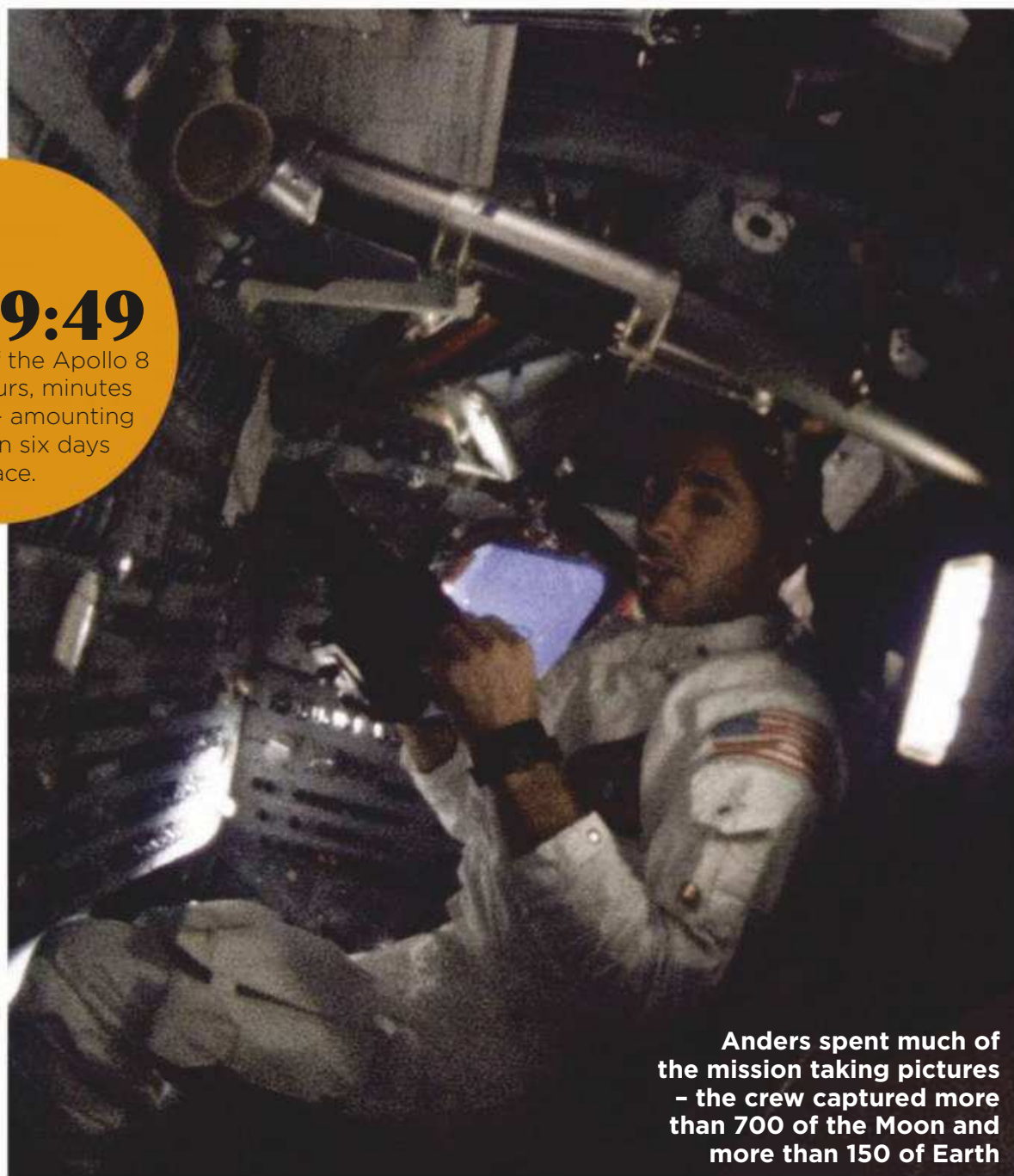




**146:59:49**

The duration of the Apollo 8 mission in hours, minutes and seconds – amounting to more than six days in space.

Apollo 8 was the first time that humans glimpsed the Moon up close; for scale, the large crater is around 110 kilometres in diameter



Anders spent much of the mission taking pictures – the crew captured more than 700 of the Moon and more than 150 of Earth

passed the camera's field of view, the crew read passages from the *Book of Genesis* that related to the creation of the Universe. Then, just as they crossed the spectacular 'terminator', the boundary line between lunar day and night, Borman wound up the broadcast. "And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas and God bless all of you – all of you on the good Earth."

Borman had timed it perfectly. As the picture slipped into darkness, he kept his crew quiet to reinforce the moment. His vision had been masterly in its execution and the power of that broadcast has never been forgotten, even if it was later eclipsed by Neil Armstrong's "One small step". Amazingly, none of it was choreographed by his bosses beyond a request to do "something appropriate".

## ONE LAST HURDLE

On their next orbit, Apollo 8's main engine ignited over the far side and accelerated the ship on a homeward path. Fifteen minutes later, early on Christmas Day in Houston, they reappeared around the limb, on time and with a buoyant Lovell expressing his relief: "Please be informed there is a Santa Claus."

## THE ASTRONAUT WIVES CLUB

The introduction of the Mercury Seven in 1959 gave the US its first astronauts, who became overnight heroes. But it also shone a light on a group of women: the quintessential housewives who stood by their men through the rigours of NASA training and the life-threatening dangers of spaceflight.

Astronauts' wives, from Mercury to Apollo, became celebrities. Their private lives became public record as their homemaking, fashion and lifestyles were splashed all over *Life* magazine. They took part in ticker tape parades and met heads of state, all while keeping a happy and supportive home for their hard-working husbands. That was the image NASA wanted to encourage and doled out as propaganda. The truth, however, was that while this was an extremely exciting time, many women struggled with the constant pressure and received little guidance.

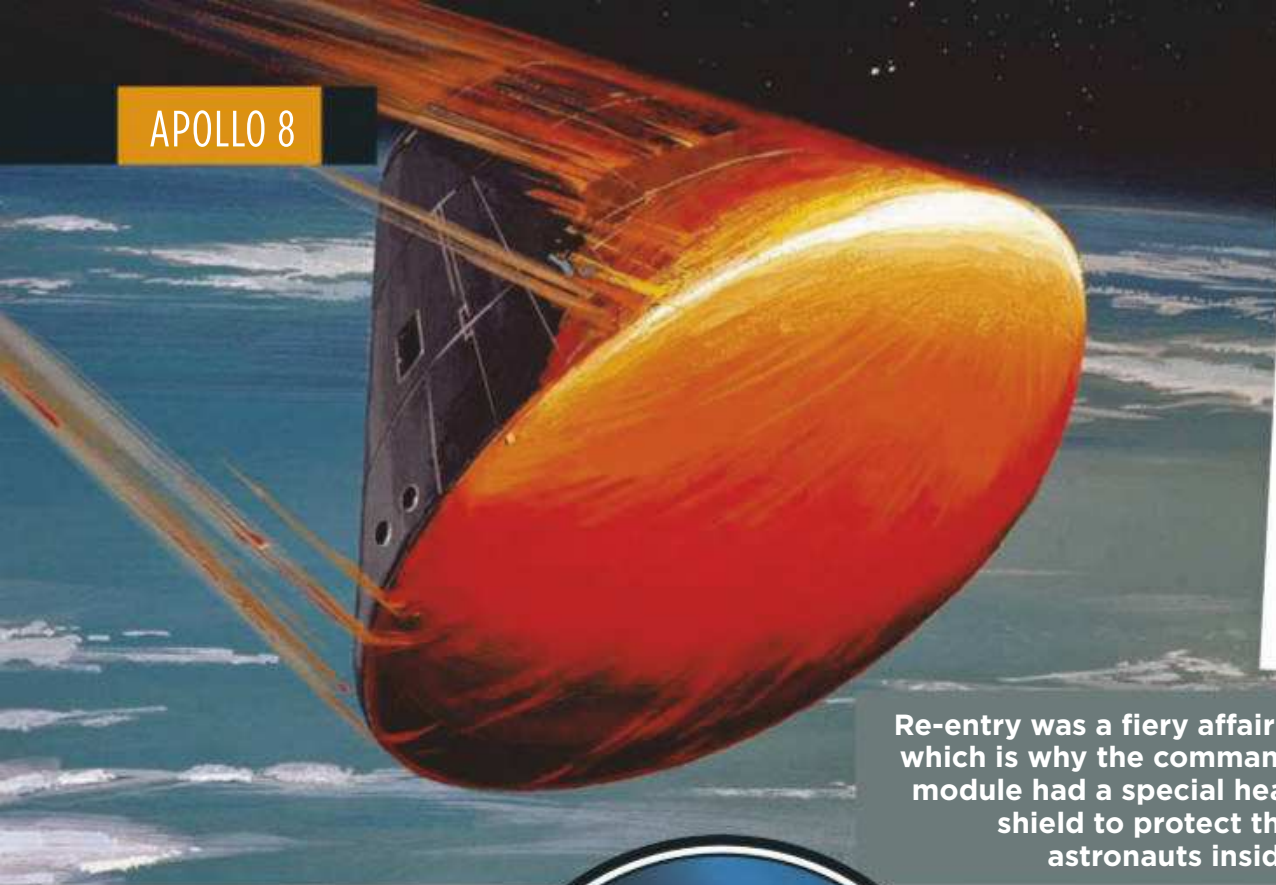
As many astronauts' families lived in the same neighbourhood outside Houston, they turned to each other. They referred to themselves as the Astronaut Wives Club (under the motto 'Proud, Happy, Thrilled') and it proved a valuable sisterhood in difficult times. When an astronaut went on a mission, his wife was left at home to deal

with anguish, doubt and fears for his safety. NASA would install a 'squawk box' so the wives could hear communications between the spacecraft and mission control, but this could just add to a sense of helplessness. Then there were strains on marriages. Wives put up with their husbands spending little time at home, and turned a blind eye to rife infidelity. As divorce, or even therapy, would be too scandalous, some turned to drink and drugs. The majority of marriages collapsed, although three of the seven that survived were those of the Apollo 8 crew.



Valerie Anders (left) and Sue Borman react with relief after hearing their husbands' voices





Re-entry was a fiery affair – which is why the command module had a special heat shield to protect the astronauts inside



## SOVIETS IN SPACE

Though the US would win the Space Race, it spent years playing catch up. Starting with the artificial satellite Sputnik in 1957, the Soviets achieved an impressive series of firsts, including the first human in space, followed by the first woman, the first two- and three-man spacecraft, and first spacewalk. The root of these successes can be put down to the Soviets' lead engineer, Sergei Korolev, and his R-7 rocket, the first intercontinental ballistic missile.

Soviet propaganda (*above*) was rife. But then came Apollo, and the goal of getting to the Moon. Huge launch vehicles would be needed and the Americans began work on the Saturn V, which would eventually become a game-changer for space travel. It was developed by Wernher von Braun, the German creator of the V-2 rocket, brought to the US after World War II. The Soviets' answer, the N-1, barely got off the ground.

As the 1960s progressed, the US space programme had more resources and money, and the slow-and-steady attitude was paying dividends. The Americans had superior craft, fuel and electronics, and a single-minded cohesiveness the Russians lacked. Then, in 1966, Korolev died. The Soviets still led the race, though, and convinced the world that they were readying for a mission to the Moon, spurring NASA to recover from Apollo 1. With Apollo 8, the US seized the lead and never surrendered it.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Apollo 8 astronauts were the first to pass through the Van Allen radiation belts that surround Earth, receiving a dose of 1.6 milligrays of radiation – around half of what the average human gets on Earth in a year.

aide to President Richard Nixon, Borman became a senior manager with the now-defunct Eastern Airlines. Anders also entered the business world, and then began restoring and flying vintage warplanes. Lovell,

ever the spaceman, stayed with NASA and commanded the ill-starred Apollo 13 mission. Later, he co-wrote a biography that focused on his last harrowing flight. It became a successful movie starring Tom Hanks.

When Lovell's moonbound ship exploded, he and his crew were saved by using their lunar module as a lifeboat. Apollo 13 highlights the risks that were taken on Apollo 8: had such a mishap befallen the ship occupied by Borman, Lovell and Anders, there would have been no way out. 📍

All that remained was a 57-hour, 400,000-kilometre fall to Earth and a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean. But their trials were not over. They were exhausted, yet Lovell was scheduled to continue his navigation tasks. With a slip of tired fingers at the computer keyboard, he inadvertently reset the guidance system to its launch configuration.

In a heartbeat, the computer lost knowledge of its orientation in space, information crucial to operating the ship. Essentially, the spacecraft didn't know which way was 'up'. His crewmates were furious and he was angry with himself. Space can be utterly unforgiving of mistakes, as can astronauts. Nevertheless, with time on his side, Lovell restored the guidance system and his colleagues made sure not to transmit their ire to the ground.

## SPLASHDOWN

On 27 December 1968, the tiny command module barrelled into Earth's atmosphere travelling at 11 kilometres each second (the service module having been jettisoned a few minutes earlier). The light show generated by falling all the way from the Moon astounded even Borman and Lovell, spaceflight veterans who compared it to being on the inside of a fluorescent tube. They landed in the pre-dawn darkness on the Pacific Ocean, ending a voyage that was arguably as pioneering as Apollo 11's seven months later, and certainly more dangerous.

After their flight, the crew of Apollo 8 had successful careers in and out of NASA. After being an



The Apollo 8 crew on the deck of their recovery ship, the USS *Yorktown*. They were subsequently named *Time*'s 'Men of the Year' for 1968



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A SPORTING POLYMATH

# 60.

PROMISE TO BE THERE:  
LEAVING A LEGACY

**W**ith a history that spans almost 150 years, the power of kindness has always been at the heart of everything we do at the British Red Cross – from assisting the wounded during war to those whose homes have been destroyed by natural disasters. Supporting people in times of crisis is our mission and this has never been more relevant or necessary.

As the lead voluntary sector emergency response organisation, we take immense pride in the response of our volunteers and staff – in particular during the recent UK terror attacks and Grenfell Tower fire. The pressure on the voluntary sector is building rapidly and we need to build a sustainable model that ensures we can still help those in times of need – we are seen across the world as a symbol of hope and protection where all else has failed. By offering flexible and simple ways to get involved, we can continue our work and allow volunteers to aid us, around their own lifestyles.

We are extremely proud to be part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – the biggest humanitarian network in the world with over 17 million volunteers across the globe.

These staff and volunteers regularly risk their own lives in order to help those in the most desperate situations, wherever in the world they are. They need our support to carry on this vitally important and selfless work that they undertake.

As well as our volunteers, our generous supporters are crucial to keeping our vital work going. Every donation helps us reach another person in crisis, wherever they may be. By working together and standing by the principles fundamental to what we believe in – humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality – we are confident that we will be able to meet the challenges awaiting us as we approach our 150th anniversary in 2020.

We know that the British Red Cross played a huge role in WWI — over 90,000 volunteers, 66,000 of whom were women volunteering at home and abroad to provide vital aid to naval and military forces, as well as caring for sick and wounded sailors and soldiers. This year, to mark 100 years since the Armistice, we're highlighting the work of women who were VADs (Voluntary Aid Detachments) during the war. These were country branches of the organisation that provided voluntary nursing, transport and logistical duties to aid the war effort. We want to praise the work of all of our staff and volunteers, past and present, to encourage people to sign up to volunteer now. Last year was one of the most demanding years for the British Red Cross and we need more volunteers to enable our vital work in helping people in crisis, whatever that may be. The life-saving work our women volunteers do today is as relevant and important as it was in 1918. Show the power of kindness and help continue the incredible legacy of our WWI volunteers by signing up at [redcross.org.uk/volunteer](http://redcross.org.uk/volunteer) today.

**Without the dedication of its volunteers, the British Red Cross wouldn't have the resources to help those in need. Without the generosity of its supporters, there would be no help to give.**

**By leaving a gift in your will, you can help transform the lives of people in crisis – whoever and wherever they are.**



Gertrude Bell's volunteer card

Surname	BELL,	Recd	8 JUL 1915
Christian Names	(Miss) Gertrude Lowthian,	(Mr., Mrs. or Miss)	
Permanent Address	Rounton Grange,		
	Northallerton.		
Certificate No.	507.	Age when engaged	
Date of Engagement	8-6-18.	Rank	Secty.)
Date of Termination	8-10-18.	Rank	Secty.)
Previous engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where			
		Dept. for References	Wounded, Missing.
Honours awarded			
Character			



# Gertrude Bell

ARCHAEOLOGIST & POLITICAL OFFICER

**“Gertrude Bell helped draw up the borders of modern-day Iraq and also established the National Museum in Baghdad...”**

**G**ertrude Bell played an enormous role in shaping Arabian politics yet her story has been overshadowed by her acquaintance T E Lawrence. Born into a wealthy English family, she was one of the first women to graduate from Oxford with a first in Modern History. She travelled extensively, becoming an archaeologist and administrator in Arabia – developing a love and fascination for the Arab peoples and their cultures.

During WWI, Bell joined the Red Cross in France, helping reunite families separated by the war and would later do the same in Iraq – helping to find soldiers who had gone missing during Britain's Mesopotamia campaigns.

Her obvious skills for diplomacy, as well as the middle eastern connections she had carefully cultivated, soon caught the attention of the British Army, which recruited her to the Arab Bureau – she was the only female political officer in the department at the time. During her time at the Arab Bureau, Gertrude Bell helped draw up the borders of modern-day Iraq and also established the National Museum in Baghdad – work inspired by her first love: archaeology.

She became a good friend to King Faisal I of Iraq and was made his chief British official. She used her position to champion women's rights – opening schools for Muslim girls as well as raising money for women's hospitals.

“Gertrude Bell was a prominent archaeologist and political advisor who worked extensively in the Middle East. The dates of her WWI service with the British Red Cross are not entirely clear, but we know she worked as a searcher in the Missing & Wounded department in 1915, and – as her VAD card indicates – possibly again when based in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) as an advisor to the British military. Her political legacy is complex, and is often the subject of strong debate both in the Middle East and further afield, but she was nonetheless one of several extraordinary women whose influence, though by no means uncontroversial, is still felt strongly today.”

**Dr Alasdair Brooks, Heritage Manager in the British Red Cross Heritage Team**



# Our history

A STORY OF COURAGE & COMPASSION

Over 150 years ago, one man made a promise – that no one should be left to suffer alone without care on the battlefield, regardless of which side they’re on. Today, the Red Cross Red Crescent movement has over 17 million volunteers worldwide. Still keeping alive Henry Dunant’s vision of providing help wherever and whenever it’s needed, no matter the difficulty or danger. This timeline highlights just some of the key moments in the history of the British Red Cross.

**1863**

The International Committee of the Red Cross is formed – Dunant is among the committee members.



**1859**

After witnessing the horror at the Battle of Solferino, Henry Dunant is inspired to write A Memory of Solferino, suggesting the formation of national voluntary relief organisations.

**1870**

The British Red Cross is created with Queen Victoria as its patron.



**1870-71**

The first humanitarian deployment in the Franco-Prussian War.

**1908**

Our first Royal Charter is granted by Edward VII and we still base our principles and work on this today.



**1909**

Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) scheme launched; by October 1910 there were already 202 detachments with over 6,000 members.

**1918**

British Red Cross and Order of St John help support survivors of the sinking of the RMS *Leinster*, which was sailing from Ireland to Wales when attacked by a U-Boat; more than 500 deaths made it the largest-ever death toll from one incident in the Irish Sea.



**1918-19**

The Spanish flu pandemic kills up to 100 million people around the world (including British Red Cross staff and VADs) highlighting the need for the Red Cross to continue beyond WWI.

**1919**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is formed and the British Red Cross Supplemental Charter is granted – this expands our role to “include the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering around the world”.



**1926**

We take over control of the Greater London Blood Transfusion service – this continued to provide blood donation services until the 1980s.



**1935-39**

Our neutrality is an important principle for us and enabled us to offer support in both the Second Italo-Ethiopian War (1935-36) and the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939).



## 1939-45

WWII – we carry out extensive services for the sick and wounded, prisoners of war and civilians needing relief as a result of enemy action, at home and abroad. British Red Cross members work in hospitals and convalescent homes, nurseries, ambulance units, rest stations and supply depots providing welfare and nursing support.

## 1956-57

The British Red Cross helps evacuate 16,951 Hungarian refugees following the revolution of 1956 – the 7,524 travelling by air were, at the time, part of the biggest airlift ever organised through civilian sources.



## 1983-85

The British Red Cross sends life-saving food, aid and funds to assist those in crisis due to the devastating famines in Ethiopia.

## 1997

The iconic visit of Diana, Princess of Wales, to landmine fields in Angola is organised by the British Red Cross.



## 2005

In wake of the London 7/7 bombings, we set up a Family Assistance Centre to help co-ordinate support for relatives of the victims.



## Today

People across the globe rely on us for help in their time of need and we want to ensure that everyone has somewhere to turn to in a crisis.



## 1966

We bring urgent relief and medical aid after a landslide claims the lives of 144 people in Welsh mining village Aberfan.



## 1947

British Red Cross offers support to both India and Pakistan during Partition.

## 1990s

Delegates and relief flights are sent to provide support in the conflicts in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

## 2007

We provide food, blankets, hot drinks and access to doctors and counsellors to victims of the devastating floods in the UK.

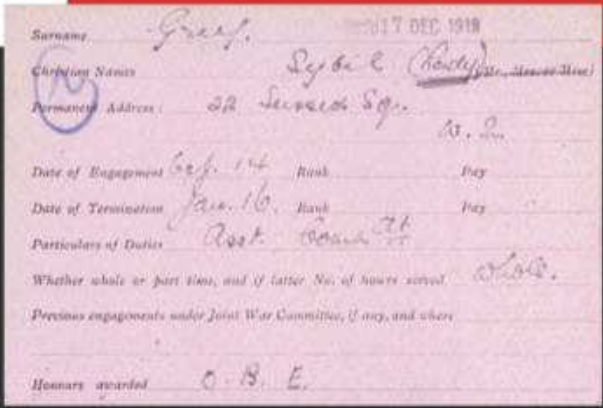
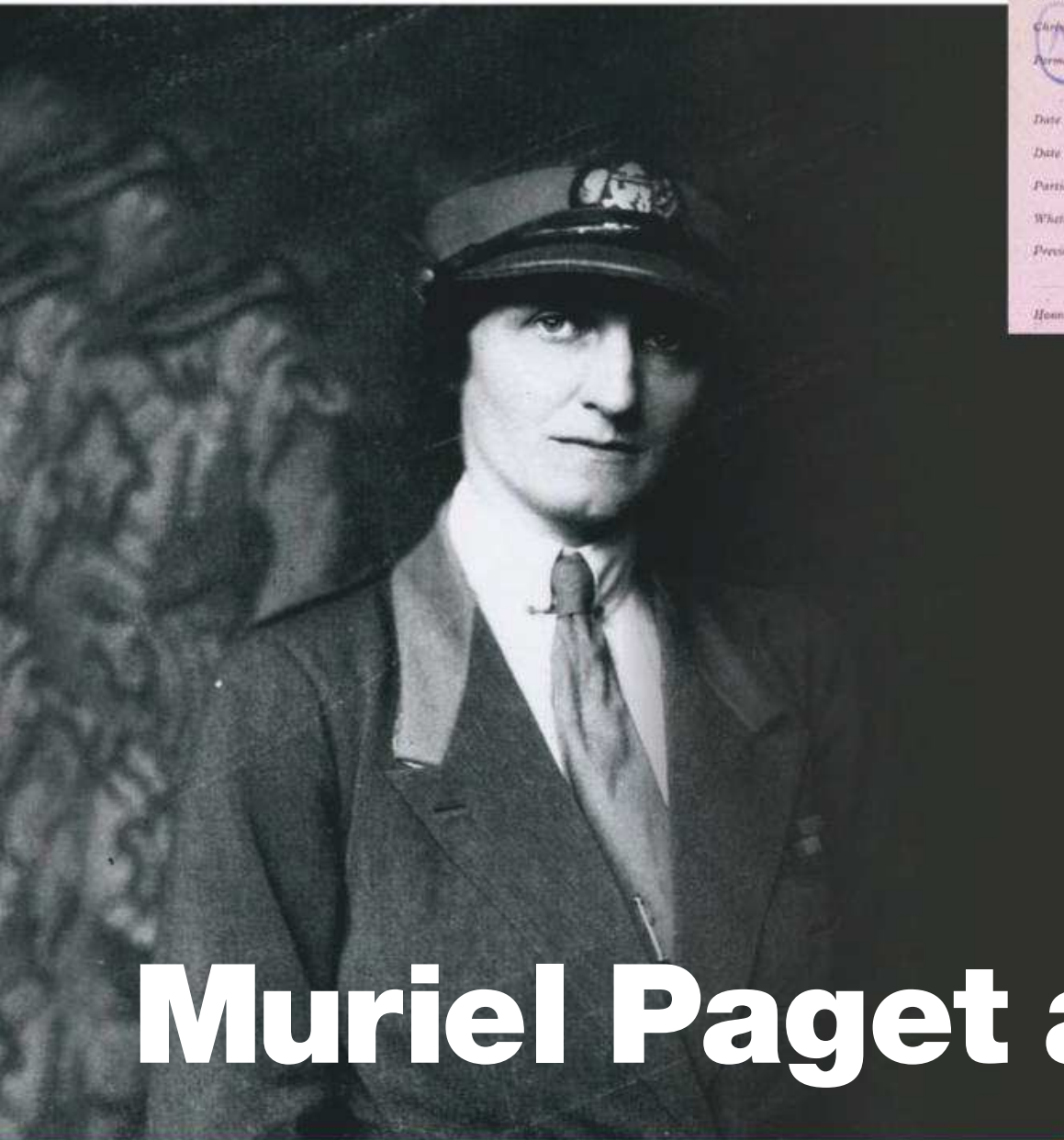


## 2017

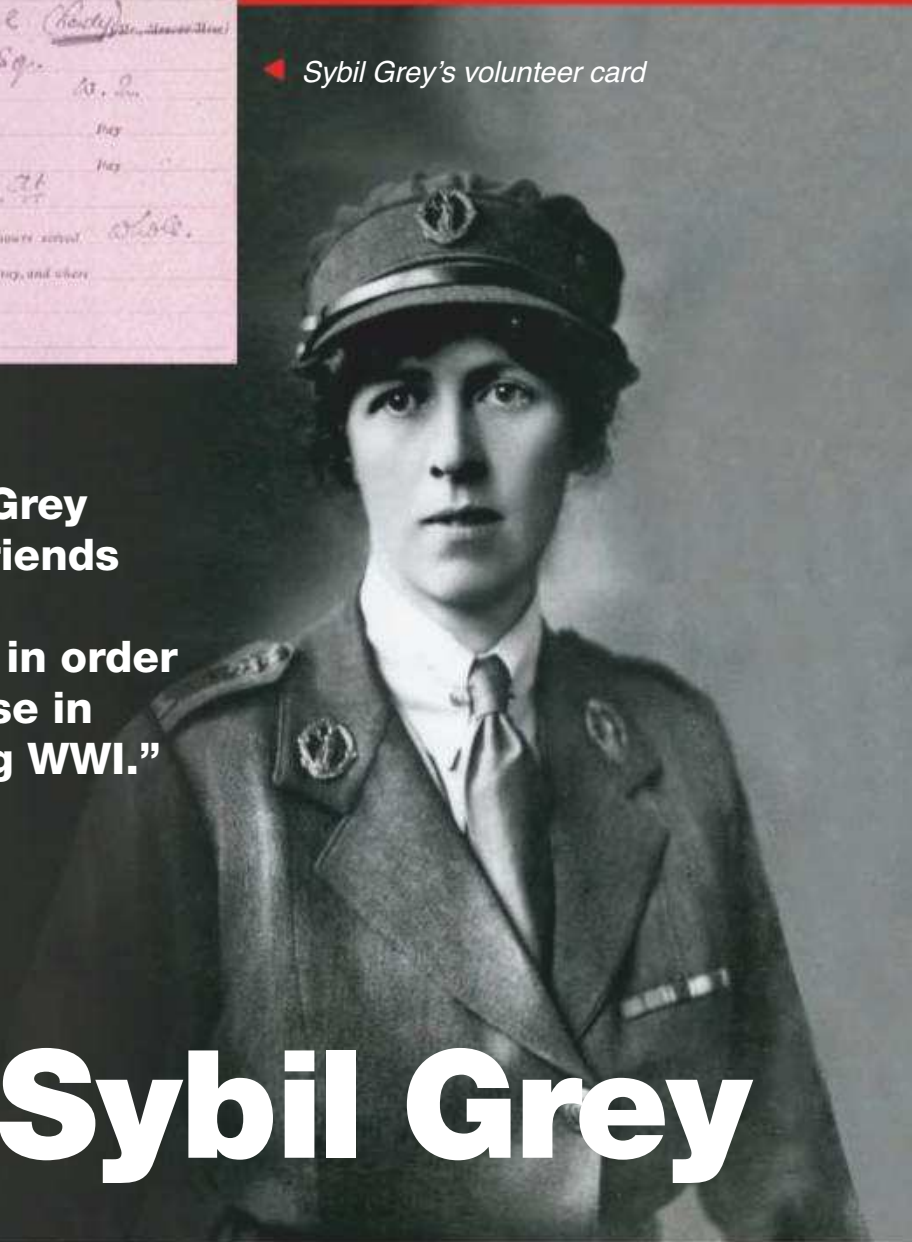
Our volunteers offer both practical and emotional support to victims of the Grenfell Tower fire and Manchester Arena bombing.

**“We want to ensure that everyone has somewhere to turn to in a crisis.”**





◀ Sybil Grey's volunteer card



**“Paget and Grey were two friends who defied convention in order to help those in need during WWI.”**

# Muriel Paget and Sybil Grey

SELFLESS WOMEN AHEAD OF THEIR TIME

Anglo-Russian hospital icon



**P**aget and Grey were two friends who defied convention in order to help those in need during WWI. Both members of the British aristocracy, they gave up the comfortable lives they had known once they heard of the suffering inflicted on soldiers on the Eastern Front. They opened the Anglo-Russian hospital in Petrograd and both risked their own lives in the process – Russia suffered some of its harshest winters during the war with temperatures plummeting below -37°C. Paget nearly died after contracting typhoid,

and during a visit to a field hospital, Grey suffered a facial injury from an exploding hand grenade. After the war, Paget travelled to Slovakia to help with the appalling refugee situation. Grey joined the Women's Legion in France which supplied the British Army with ambulance drivers. Both received praise from the countries they helped and for their embodiment of selflessness. Their stories show how British Red Cross volunteers come from all walks of life, united in their passion for helping others in times of crisis.

**“Their stories show how British Red Cross volunteers come from all walks of life, united in their passion for helping others in times of crisis.”**

“The story of these amazing women has been hugely overlooked in the telling of the story of WWI. It's fascinating that two women from such privileged backgrounds gave up their lives in Britain to deal with the appalling horrors of the Eastern Front, where they would have witnessed horrific injuries and dealt with bitterly cold temperatures. They also personally experienced the turbulence of the revolutions of 1917. It is tempting to focus on household names who volunteered during the war; however there were many unsung heroes whose tales have been left untold. The power of kindness demonstrated by women like these who volunteered was the backbone of the British Red Cross's support during WWI.”

Mehzebin Adam, Curator of the British Red Cross Museum and Archives Team



# Lottie Dod

## A SPORTING POLYMATH

**“She demonstrates that nothing can stop you helping others if you really put your heart and your soul into it.”**

**L**ottie Dod remains remembered as the youngest women to become Wimbledon ladies singles champion – a feat she managed five times, the first when she was just 15. An extremely passionate and accomplished sportswoman, she also won a silver medal in the 1908 Olympics in archery. Sporting prowess must have run in the family as her brother Willy won the gold in archery that year too. Dod’s sporting achievements didn’t end there – she also won the British Amateur Golf championships, played for the national hockey team and reached the men’s international qualification standard for

figure skating. If she was alive today, she would have been one of the most famous and versatile sportswomen in the world.

At the outbreak of WWI, Dod was determined to be of help, but sciatica meant that she couldn’t work at the front in France as she wanted. She began volunteering for the British Red Cross in England, helping as a cleaner and in the kitchens and was awarded a service medal for devoting more than 1,000 hours of care during the war. She demonstrates that nothing can stop you helping others if you really put your heart and your soul into it.

“Lottie Dod was without a doubt one of the most accomplished and inspirational sportswomen in history. It would be unheard of today for an athlete to achieve so much across such a range of sports – from archery to tennis via figure skating, golf and hockey. Had she been born in the present day it is highly likely she would be one of the most famous sportswomen in the world. With this in mind, it is fairly ironic that it was a bad back that put a stop to Lottie Dod’s desire to travel to France as a nurse during her time as a British Red Cross volunteer, instead taking up kitchen and pantry duties in an English auxiliary hospital.”

Rose Brown, Archivist for the British Red Cross Museum & Archives Team

Lottie Dod’s volunteer card

Service Card No. 12345

Surname *Dod* (Mr, Mrs, or Miss)

Given Name *Charlotte*

Permanent Address *cp. Lloyd’s Bank, Bedford St. Devon. City of Chichester, Bedford St. Devon.*

Date of Engagement *Nov. 1916* Rank *Nil*

Date of Termination *April 1918* Rank *Nil*

Particulars of Duties *Pantry & housemaid work in hospitals*

Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served *about 600*

Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where *As a member of London & 2. Helen V. A. D. Hospital*

Remarks *Passed 1st and 2nd Hon. Nursing (St. John’s)*





# Promise to be there

**Our life-saving work is as vital today as it was in World War One.**

Please help us continue supporting people in crisis for many years to come by leaving a gift in your will to the British Red Cross.

Find out how you can make or update your will using our **free no-obligation will writing service**

Call **0300 500 0401** or  
Visit **[redcross.org.uk/freewill](https://redcross.org.uk/freewill)**





# EMPEROR IN EXILE

He'd already escaped one island internment, but this time Napoleon's banishment was permanent. All at sea in the Atlantic, the fallen French ruler's final years were a battle of a different kind, writes **Julian Humphrys**

St Helena was a different prospect to Elba - where before he had the run of the island, here Napoleon was watched at all times

GETTY





**T**he isle of St Helena, 4,500 miles from England and 1,200 miles from West Africa, was once described as being the place “further away from anywhere else in all the world”. So when, in 1815, the British government was looking for somewhere secure to house Napoleon Bonaparte – who not long before had abdicated as Emperor of France and surrendered to them – St Helena seemed the ideal place.

This was the second time Napoleon had abdicated. He did so for the first on 6 April 1814; Paris had fallen to the European coalition formed against him, the Duke of Wellington had crossed the Pyrenees and invaded the south of France, and Napoleon’s marshals were no longer prepared to fight on.

The defeated emperor was treated relatively generously by the victorious allies. They sent him to rule the Mediterranean island of Elba and even allowed him to take a tiny army with him, chiefly drawn from his Imperial Guard. Energetic as ever,

Napoleon busied himself with a series of improvements to the island’s infrastructure, but he always kept a close eye on European affairs. Aware of the growing unpopularity of the restored French monarchy, he soon decided to take a gamble.

## WELCOMED HOME

Slipping away from Elba with a small force, he landed in France near Antibes on 1 March 1815. As he headed north, the troops sent to intercept him came over to his side in droves and – on 20 March – he was back in the Tuileries Palace in Paris, which had been hastily abandoned by Louis XVIII.

The nations of Europe began mobilising once more, but Napoleon struck first, attacking an allied army under Wellington and a Prussian army under Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher in what is now Belgium. Napoleon initially caught his enemies on the hop, but on 18 June he was crushingly defeated at Waterloo. Four days later, he abdicated for a second time.

**The French monarchy sent troops to arrest Napoleon after his escape from Elba; instead, they turned coat and joined him**

Napoleon’s immediate plan was to try and escape to America. He made for Rochefort on the west coast of France, where he hoped a frigate would transport him across the Atlantic. But there was a major flaw – the port was blockaded by the Royal Navy in the form of the 74-gun HMS *Bellerophon*, a veteran of Britain’s wars against the French.

Napoleon’s life was now genuinely in danger: there was little doubt that both the restored French monarchy and the Prussians would have executed him had he fallen into their hands. Eventually, he and his advisors realised that the only option was to surrender to the British, whom Napoleon described in a letter to the future George IV, then Prince Regent, as “the most powerful, the most constant and the most generous” of his enemies.

On the morning of Saturday 15 July, Napoleon boarded the *Bellerophon* and surrendered to its captain, Frederick Maitland. As the ship set off for England, the British government had already decided what to do with their exalted



## “The British were wary of creating a Napoleonic colony on St Helena”



prisoner. Napoleon clearly hoped that he would be given an estate in Britain on which he could live out his days. Indeed, that's what he claimed he'd been promised by Maitland – a claim vigorously denied by the captain himself. But there was little chance that the British government would allow such a dangerous figure to live in their midst.

They needed somewhere secure – and a very long way away. And in the remote

Atlantic island of St Helena, they had the very place. The Prime Minister, Lord Liverpool, wrote that it was “the place in the world best calculated for the confinement of such a person”, adding that “there is only one place ... where ships can anchor, and we have the power of excluding neutral ships altogether”. He goes on to say that “at such a place and such a distance all intrigue would

**The ex-emperor caused a quite a stir when the *Bellerophon* reached England**

**Napoleon hoped to gain political asylum in England after surrendering to Maitland; his scheme didn't quite work out...**

be impossible; and, being so far from the European world, [Napoleon] would soon be forgotten”. How wrong he was about the last bit.

On 24 July, the *Bellerophon* anchored off Torbay. The news that Napoleon was on board leaked out, and soon the old warship was surrounded by hundreds of small craft, all packed with passengers desperately hoping to catch a glimpse of the fallen emperor.

A similar scene was played out two days later when she anchored off Plymouth, and it was there that a furious Napoleon learned of his final destination. On 7 August, Napoleon and 26 companions boarded the HMS *Northumberland* as the long voyage south began. More had wanted to go with him, but the British were wary of creating a Napoleonic colony on the island and so restricted the number.

It wasn't until 14 October that the black, volcanic cliffs of St Helena came into view. Predictably, Napoleon was far from impressed, remarking that he would have been better off if he had stayed in Egypt. Three days later, he disembarked with his entourage at Jamestown, the island's main settlement. Longwood House, the residence set aside for him, wasn't ready, and so while the *Northumberland's* carpenters busied themselves repairing it, Napoleon spent seven weeks in The Briars, a





# THE RISE AND FALL OF NAPOLEON



**15 AUGUST 1769**

Napoleone di Buonaparte is born a French citizen in Ajaccio, Corsica. He would change his name to Napoleon Bonaparte in 1796.



**1785**

Napoleon graduates from the École Militaire in Paris and is commissioned as a second lieutenant in the La Fère regiment.



**1789**

The French Revolution breaks out. France is declared a republic in 1792 and Louis XVI dies by the guillotine in 1793.



**1793**

At the Siege of Toulon, Napoleon distinguishes himself by forcing the Anglo-Spanish fleet occupying the town to withdraw.



**1795**

After suppressing a royalist rising in Paris, Napoleon becomes a national hero and is made Commander of the Army of the Interior.



**1796**

Shortly after marrying Josephine de Beauharnais, Napoleon takes command of French forces in Italy. A slew of victories follows.



**1798**

Napoleon leads an expedition to Egypt and wins the Battle of the Pyramids. He is cut off, however, following Nelson's victory in the Battle of the Nile.



**1799**

Abandoning his army, Napoleon returns to Paris. A military coup gives him sweeping powers, and he is made First Consul for life in 1802.



**1804**

The Napoleonic Code comes into force. Napoleon proclaims himself as Emperor of the French with a coronation in Notre Dame Cathedral.



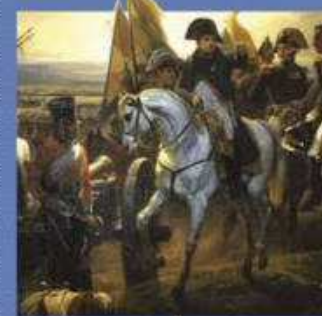
**1805**

Shelving plans to invade Britain, Napoleon marches east and wins one of his greatest victories, the Battle of Austerlitz.



**1806**

Napoleon merges German states into the Confederation of the Rhine and introduces the Continental System, prohibiting trade with Britain.



**1807**

Napoleon defeats the Russians at Friedland. Later that year France invades Portugal, sparking the costly Peninsular War against Britain, Spain and Portugal.



**1810**

After divorcing Empress Josephine, Napoleon marries Marie-Louise of Austria. Their only son, also named Napoleon, is born the next year.



**1812**

Napoleon begins his catastrophic campaign in Russia. He occupies Moscow, but his army is forced into a winter retreat and is virtually destroyed.



**1813**

A coalition made up of Russia, Austria, Prussia and Sweden allies against France and inflicts a major defeat on Napoleon in the massive Battle of Leipzig.



**1814**

Allied troops enter Paris, Napoleon abdicates and Bourbon rule is restored. Napoleon is made ruler of the island of Elba off the coast of Italy.



**1815**

Napoleon briefly returns to power, but is defeated at Waterloo. After abdicating for a second time, he is exiled to the island of St Helena.



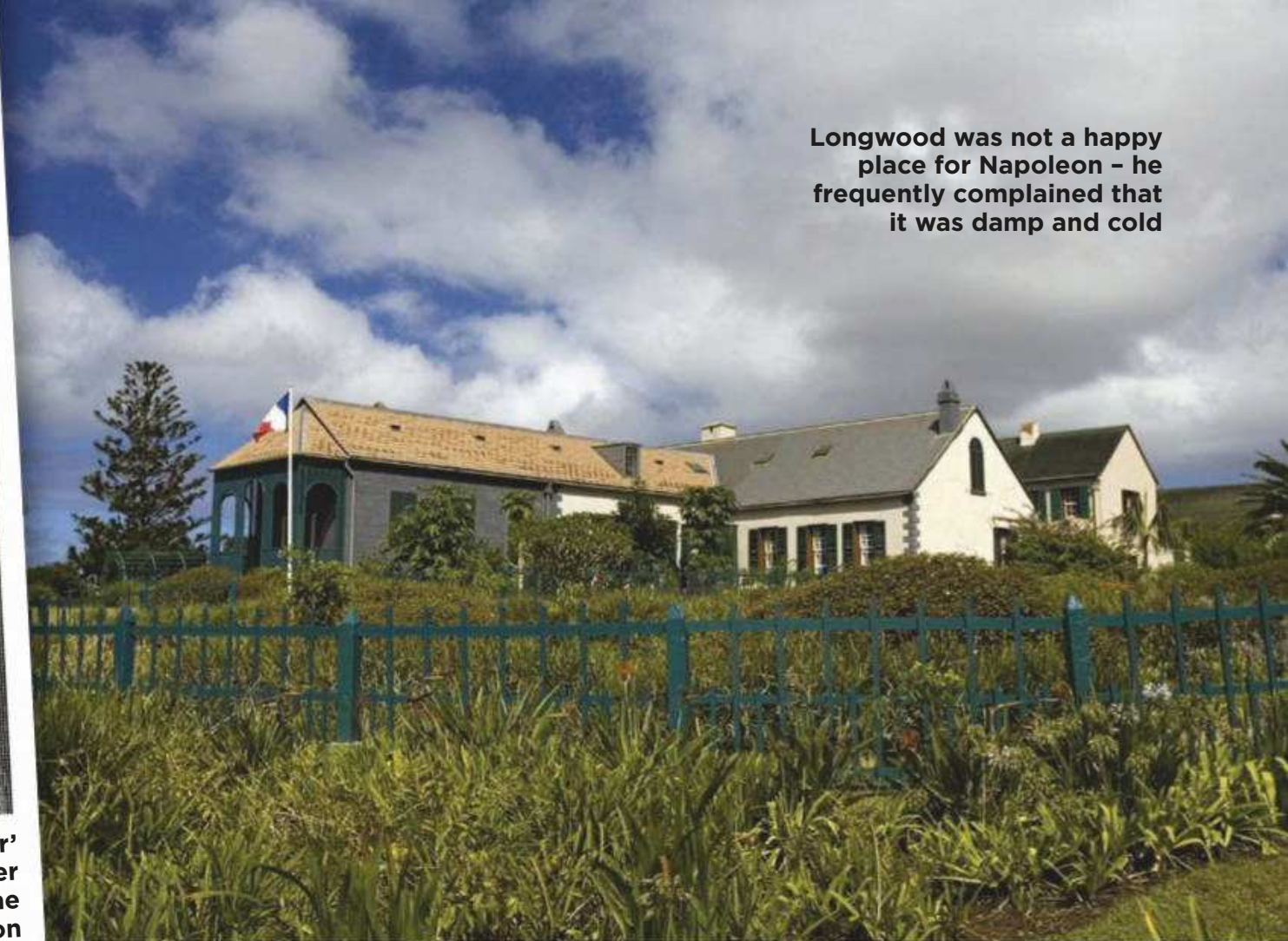
**5 MAY 1821**

Napoleon dies on St Helena. His body would not be returned to France until 1840, when he was laid to rest in the Hotel des Invalides in Paris.





**Sir Hudson Lowe, the 'gaoler' of St Helena, found his career blighted by rumours that he had poisoned Napoleon**



**Longwood was not a happy place for Napoleon – he frequently complained that it was damp and cold**

< bungalow near to Jamestown that was the residence of William Balcombe, an official of the East India Company. While he was there he struck up an avuncular friendship with Balcombe's 14-year-old daughter, Betsy.

## LONGWOOD CHRISTMAS

On 10 December 1815, he finally moved into Longwood, the house that, despite his protests, would be his home for the rest of his life. Longwood was a large, rambling single-storey building set amongst lava fields on a high plateau, near the stunted trees of the rather ominously named Deadwood Plain.

Although it hardly compared with the palaces of Europe, Longwood was spacious by St Helena standards: it had room for Napoleon's entourage as well as a billiard room, salon, library and dining room. On the other hand, its lofty location meant that it missed out on the pleasant climate enjoyed by the inhabitants down at Jamestown. It was windswept, regularly swathed in clouds and full of damp.

While this made for rather unpleasant living conditions, Napoleon saw an opportunity to get off the island by claiming that its unhealthy climate was ruining his health. His argument was backed up by his doctor, Barry O'Meara, who had completely fallen for his patient's famous charm and remained a devotee of the ex-emperor until his death. Meanwhile, his adherents bombarded Europe with letters and pamphlets complaining of unhealthy conditions, unnecessary restrictions, insults and poor provisions – and laid the blame squarely on the

new governor, Sir Hudson Lowe, who had arrived on the island in April 1816.

Lowe's first meeting with Napoleon went badly, and things didn't get any better. Even though they lived just three miles apart they only met six times in the first four months that Lowe was on St Helena, and then never saw each other again. Lowe has been described as a tactless martinet, but in these stormy meetings he retained his self-control even when Napoleon accused him of being a clerk and not a soldier.

**Napoleon wasn't the only British foe to be exiled to St Helena: in later years it would welcome Boer commander Piet Cronje**

Napoleon's comment was not only provocative, it was inaccurate. Lowe had campaigned all around the Mediterranean – much of it in command of a unit formed from anti-French Corsicans. He had been the senior British officer present at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813 and was the first officer to bring Britain news of Napoleon's abdication in 1814. General Sir John Moore thought highly of him, saying when "Lowe's at the outposts I'm sure of a good night". Wellington was less impressed, calling him "a damned old fool".





“Napoleon became lethargic, spending long hours lying on his bed”

Longwood has been preserved with all of the furniture from Napoleon's exile, including the bed he perished in

## THE ‘FOUR APOSTLES’ NAPOLEON'S CLOSEST COMPANIONS IN EXILE

### HENRI-GATIEN BERTRAND

A talented general and loyal servant of Napoleon. His wife became hysterical and tried to jump overboard when she heard that she and her husband were accompanying the fallen emperor to St Helena. He stayed with Napoleon until his death and was a member of the expedition sent to recover his remains in 1840.



### EMMANUEL, COUNT DE LAS CASES

A former royalist who became a chamberlain of Napoleon. He took copious notes of his conversations and later published them as *The Memorial of St Helena*. He was expelled from the island in November 1816 when it was discovered he was smuggling secret correspondence.



### CHARLES- TRISTAN DE MONTHOLON

A general and diplomat. His wife Albine is reputed to have been Napoleon's mistress on St Helena. Although she would leave the island in 1818, Montholon stayed with Napoleon at Longwood until his death.



### GASPARD GOURGAUD

Soldier who fought in many of Napoleon's battles and saved his life at the Battle of Brienne in 1814. Despite insisting on accompanying Napoleon to St Helena, his hot-headed nature led to friction with the other companions and, in 1818, he was permitted to leave the island.



As a soldier, Lowe seems to have been diligent and reliable rather than brilliant and imaginative, but that was exactly what was required for this job. In any case, what other senior officer would have taken the position? As Lord Bathurst wrote to the Duke of Wellington, he did not believe that they “could have found a fitter person of his rank in the army willing to accept a situation of so much confinement, responsibility and exclusion from society”.

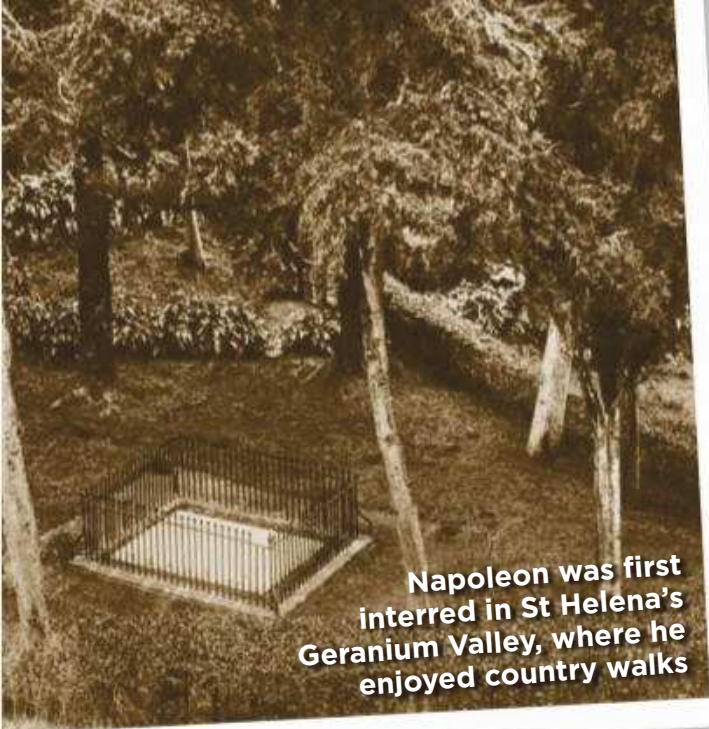
### LIFE UNDER A LENS

Napoleon's life on St Helena was governed by a mass of restrictive regulations, all enforced by Lowe. He was denied newspapers, subjected to a curfew, watched all the time and heavily guarded, with 125 men stationed around Longwood in the day and 72 at night. He was, in effect, under house arrest.

Lowe is frequently seen as the architect of these regulations, but in fact he was merely carrying out specific instructions sent to him from London. Napoleon had escaped from an island before, and the British weren't taking any chances. Lowe had been sent to do a job and he followed his instructions to the letter.

During his first couple of years on St Helena, Napoleon took regular walks,





Napoleon was first interred in St Helena's Geranium Valley, where he enjoyed country walks

went riding and spent much of his time reminiscing and dictating his memoirs to his companions. But as time went on, and the months turned into years, loneliness and boredom began to take its toll. Napoleon became increasingly lethargic and depressed, spending long hours sitting alone or lying on his bed. By 1820, it was clear that he was seriously ill. He suffered from abdominal pains, nausea, fevers, constipation and diarrhoea; his gums, lips and nails were colourless. For a while, he thought he was being poisoned, but then decided that he'd the same cancer that had killed his father. But there was still time for one last swipe at the British, and at Lowe in particular.

Dictating his last will and testament in April 1821, he added, "My death is premature. I have been assassinated by the English oligopoly and their hired murderer." Although some conspiracy theorists have taken these words literally, Napoleon was probably implying that the authorities' refusal to agree to his demands to be moved from the unhealthy Longwood had hastened his death. On 4 May, he lost consciousness;

the following day, surrounded by his companions, he died.

Napoleon had requested in his will that his remains should be laid to rest "by the banks of the Seine, surrounded by the French people, whom I love so dearly". But at that time, there was little chance that either

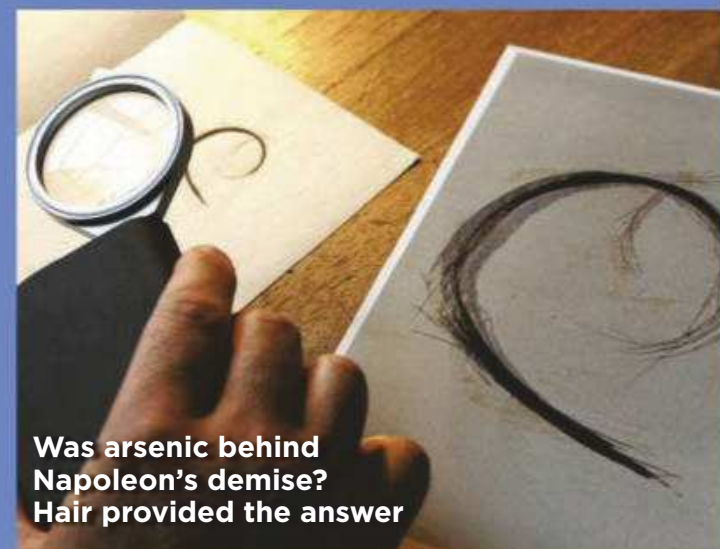
## MURDER ON ST HELENA?

Was Napoleon murdered? The doctors who attended his autopsy certainly didn't think so. As far as they were concerned, Napoleon had died of stomach cancer, but rumours that Napoleon might have been a target for something more sinister had been around for years – since 1818, when Barry O'Meara, the Royal Navy surgeon who had been Napoleon's doctor, insinuated that Sir Hudson Lowe had once asked him to shorten Napoleon's life. The British authorities took a dim view of O'Meara's claims and he was dismissed, but the idea that Napoleon could have been murdered lingered.

Eventually, in the 1960s, an analysis of a lock of Napoleon's hair proved that he had high levels of arsenic in his system, leading some to argue that Napoleon had been poisoned, probably by the British government. But others, while agreeing that arsenic might have killed Napoleon, argued that it was more likely to have been accidental. An analysis of the wallpaper from Longwood did indeed show that it contained an arsenic-based dye that mould transformed into poisonous fumes. Later researchers tested hairs from some of Napoleon's contemporaries and concluded that by modern standards they all had

abnormally high levels of arsenic, for at the time it was widely used in paint, tapestry, medicine and even the preservation of food.

The final blow to the murder by arsenic theory was struck by a team of Italian scientists a decade ago, who analysed hairs taken from Napoleon's head at various times in his life (including when he was a boy) and discovered that the arsenic levels were the same in all of them. The doctors had almost certainly been right all along.



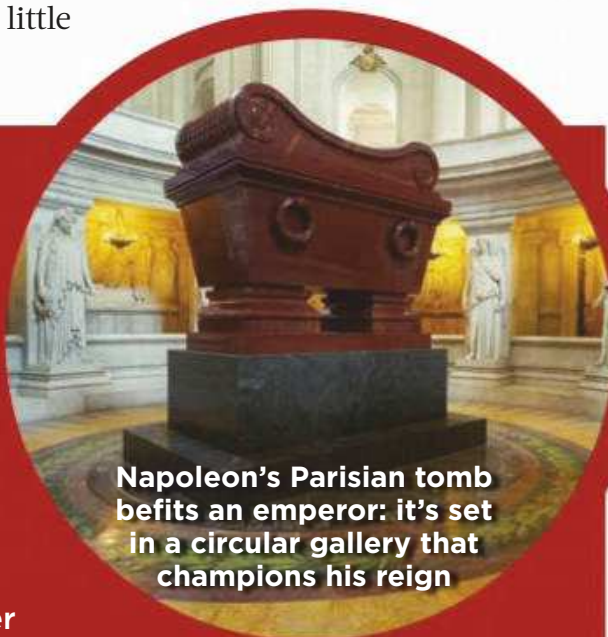
Was arsenic behind Napoleon's demise? Hair provided the answer

Barry O'Meara was surgeon aboard the *Bellerophon* prior to Napoleon's surrender



## RETURN TO PARIS THE EMPEROR COMES HOME

When Napoleon died in 1821, his request to be buried in Paris was rejected. Nineteen years later things had changed. King Louis-Philippe wanted to boost his popularity by associating himself with Napoleon's memory, while the British wanted to make a gesture to gain French support over a crisis in the Middle East. The French duly asked for the return of Napoleon's remains and the British agreed. In October 1840, a French expedition led by Louis-Philippe's own son sailed to St Helena and the caskets containing Napoleon's body were opened. After confirming its identity, they transferred Napoleon's remains into six new caskets and sailed them back to France and up the river Seine, ready for burial in the Hotel des Invalides in Paris, a traditional resting place of France's military heroes. On 15 December, one million French people ignored freezing temperatures to line the streets of Paris, as the huge carriage carrying Napoleon's coffin trundled past the Arc de Triomphe, down the Champs-Élysées and finally crossed the Seine to Les Invalides.



Napoleon's Parisian tomb befits an emperor: it's set in a circular gallery that champions his reign

the restored Bourbon monarchy or the British authorities would allow the creation of what might well become a shrine to their old enemy in Paris. Napoleon would be buried on St Helena.

The whole population turned out to watch as 12 British grenadiers carried Napoleon's velvet-covered coffin for burial in the tranquil Geranium Valley. There, dressed in his favourite uniform of a colonel of the Chasseurs à Cheval, Napoleon's body was laid to rest. Even then there was one last battle to be fought. And it was all over a surname.

The French wanted simply to inscribe 'Napoleon', his name as emperor, on the tomb. But the British, who were reluctant to give his empire any sense of legitimacy, insisted on his full name – Napoleon Bonaparte. Neither side would give ground and in the end the remains of the most famous man in Europe would spend nearly 20 years in an unmarked grave. 📍

### GET HOOKED

#### READ

Andrew Roberts' *Napoleon the Great* (Penguin, 2015) is a monumental 976-page biography. As the title suggests, Roberts takes a broadly sympathetic view of his subject, a view not universally shared by historians.

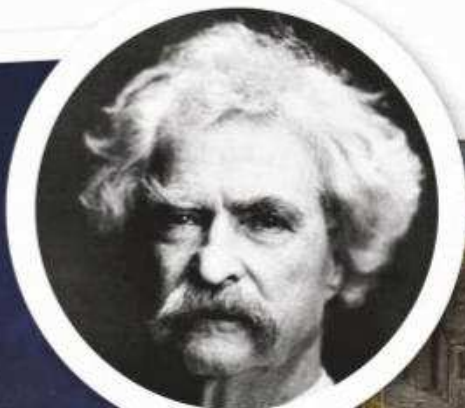


# Bizarre coincidences

Unlikely predictions, curses and acts of clairvoyance with jaw-dropping outcomes

Hiroshima shortly after the 'Little Boy' atomic bomb fell. Most of those killed were civilians

Twain (*inset*) felt the pull of Halley's Comet



Most of the Ripper's victims were found lying in the street



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Catherine Eddowes, fourth victim of Jack the Ripper, appeared to predict the unlucky woman who would follow her grisly fate. On the night of her murder, Eddowes was apprehended by police for public drunkenness. When released, she gave the police a false name – Mary Ann Kelly. Six weeks later, Mary Jane Kelly was found dead, and her murder was believed to also be the work of Jack the Ripper.

## CHASED BY WAR

Wilmer McLean's Virginia plantation was the site of the first major engagement of the American Civil War – the First Battle of Bull Run. A shell tore through the kitchen, which was being used as a Confederate commander's headquarters. The McLeans moved 120 miles across Virginia, hoping for some peace and quiet, but the war followed them. Four years later, the McLeans' new home in Appomattox was selected for the Confederate surrender – ending the devastating conflict in the home of the same family who saw it begin.



The McLean family at their Appomattox home

## YOU COULDN'T WRITE IT

American author Mark Twain was born in 1835, two weeks after Halley's Comet's closest pass of the Sun. He predicted that his death would occur on its next appearance: "I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year (1910), and I expect to go out with it ... the Almighty has said, no doubt: 'Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together.'" He died one day after the comet's closest pass of the Sun during its 1910 apparition.

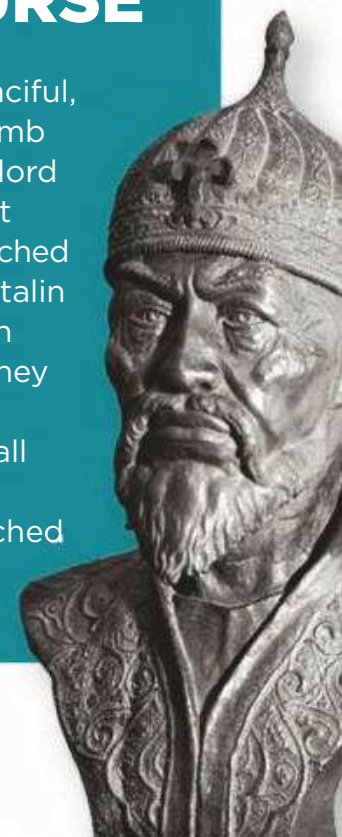
GETTY X13, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS X1, TOPFOTO X1



German troops prepare to march on Leningrad, 1941

## WARLORD'S CURSE

Stories of cursed tombs sound fanciful, but Stalin might not agree. The tomb of Tamerlane – a 14th-century warlord whose ravaging invasions were felt across the globe (*inset*) – lay untouched for centuries in Uzbekistan, until Stalin decided to have it exhumed. When archaeologists opened it in 1941, they found an inscription that read, "Whomsoever opens my tomb shall unleash an invader more terrible than I." The same day, Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa – the assault on the Soviet Union.





## DOUBLY UNLUCKY

They say lightning never strikes twice, but the late Tsutomu Yamaguchi (*inset*) might have something to say about that particular proverb. On 6 August 1945, Yamaguchi was in



Hiroshima. That morning, an atomic bomb was dropped on the city, killing 80,000 – he was just two miles from ground zero. Covered in burns and with both eardrums ruptured, he boarded a train for his hometown, Nagasaki. Reporting for work on 9 August, he was giving an account of Hiroshima when the second atomic bomb was dropped. Although it's believed many survived both blasts, Yamaguchi was the only one recognised by the Japanese government as 'niiyuu hibakusha' (a twice-bombed person).

## SINS OF THE FAMILY

Robert Todd Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln, may have been left feeling conflicted when he discovered the identity of his father's killer. Just a few years before, Robert had a close shave with death when he fell onto a train track in Jersey City. He was quickly pulled up to safety by Edwin Booth. A few months later, Edwin's brother, John Wilkes Booth, would assassinate his father. Robert also had the misfortune to witness or be close to three presidential murders: those of James A Garfield, William McKinley and his father.

Robert Lincoln (*inset*) was saved from death by Edwin Booth, whose brother would later kill his father



## HIS DAYS WERE NUMBERED

Thirteen may be unlucky for some, but it was 21 that haunted King Louis XVI of France. As a child, an astrologer had warned him to be always on his guard on the 21st of the month. He tried his best to avoid important business on this date, but that wouldn't save him from the French Revolution. On 21 June 1791, he was placed under house arrest with his family after attempting to flee Paris. The monarchy was abolished on 21 September 1792 with the creation of the first French Republic and, on 21 January 1793, the King lost his head.



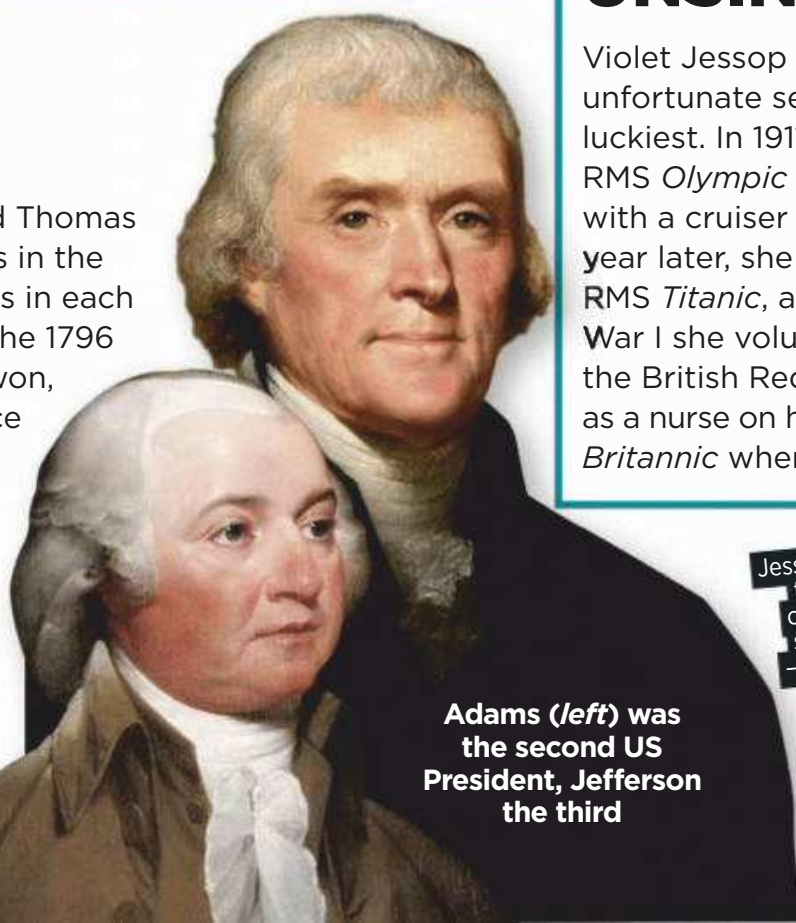
Princip also killed Ferdinand's wife Sophie in the shooting

## A TURN FOR THE WORSE

While historians argue over the inevitability of World War I, the majority agree that the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the spark that lit the flame. Yet it was almost avoided: hours before the fatal shooting in June 1914, a bomb was thrown at the Archduke's car, injuring bystanders. He made a detour from his planned route to visit those injured. His driver took a wrong turn, ending up next to his assassin, Gavrilo Princip.

## THE RIGHT TIME TO DIE

Founding Fathers John Adams and Thomas Jefferson played fundamental roles in the US gaining independence as well as in each other's lives. They clashed during the 1796 US presidential election – Adams won, but Jefferson served as Adams' vice president before gaining the top job himself in 1800. As if written in the stars, the friends and rivals died within hours of each other on 4 July 1826 – the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.



Adams (*left*) was the second US President, Jefferson the third

## LITTLE MISS UNSINKABLE

Violet Jessop is either the most unfortunate seagoer or the luckiest. In 1911, she was on the RMS *Olympic* when it collided with a cruiser in the Solent. A year later, she was aboard the RMS *Titanic*, and during World War I she volunteered with the British Red Cross, serving as a nurse on hospital ship HMHS *Britannic* when it hit a mine.



Jessop helped with the lifeboats on the *Titanic*

Jessop was not dissuaded from sea travel. She continued to work on ships for many years – even cruising around the world

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Do you know of any more weird coincidences in history?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)



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# THE WOMAN WHO HUNTED DINOSAURS

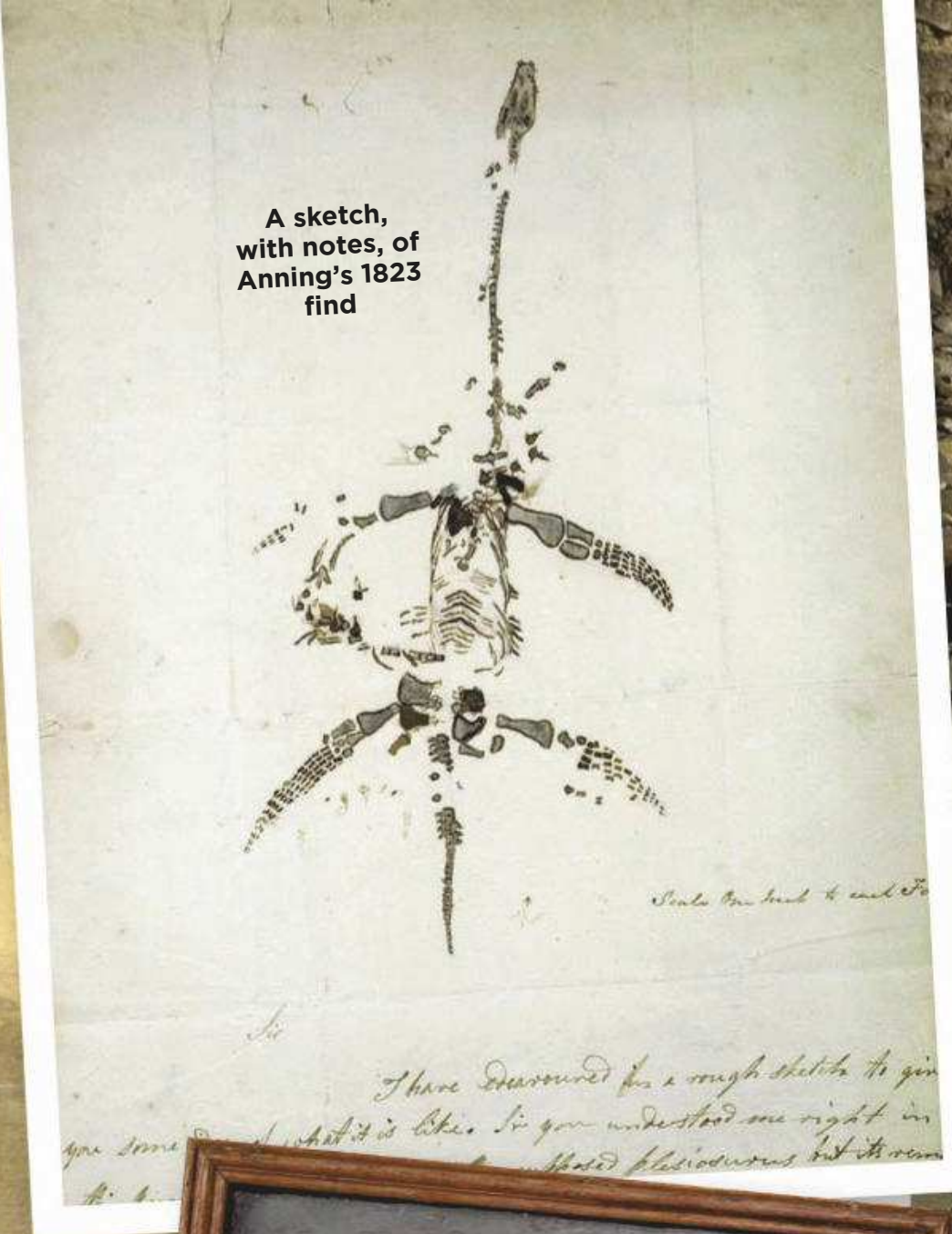
She was one of the greatest fossil hunters in the world, who became her own tourist attraction and was known to kings. Why then, asks **Rebecca Wragg Sykes**, is Mary Anning only now getting the recognition she deserves?



With her hammer and beloved dog Tray, Mary Anning was an extremely prolific fossil hunter



A sketch, with notes, of Anning's 1823 find



**M**ary Anning's life could easily have been snuffed out just as it was beginning. As a storm erupted over Lyme Regis, members of an audience who had come to enjoy the spectacle of a travelling troupe of horse riders took shelter under a tree. The sky flashed to life as lightning coursed through the tree and the bodies of three women huddled beneath its branches, killing them instantly. One of these women was holding her friend's baby, the infant Mary, but somehow the babe in her arms miraculously survived.

Throughout her life, Mary was quite extraordinary. At a time when women's acceptance by the scientific community was minimal at best, she was a pioneer in the science of palaeontology. Her discoveries were breath-taking, and her approach to understanding the fossils she found was brilliant. She made her greatest discoveries before the word dinosaur had even been coined

to describe the prehistoric beasts that roamed Earth millions of years ago. And yet through her work, by the time of her death at the age of just 47, our understanding of this prehistoric world was already beginning to take shape.

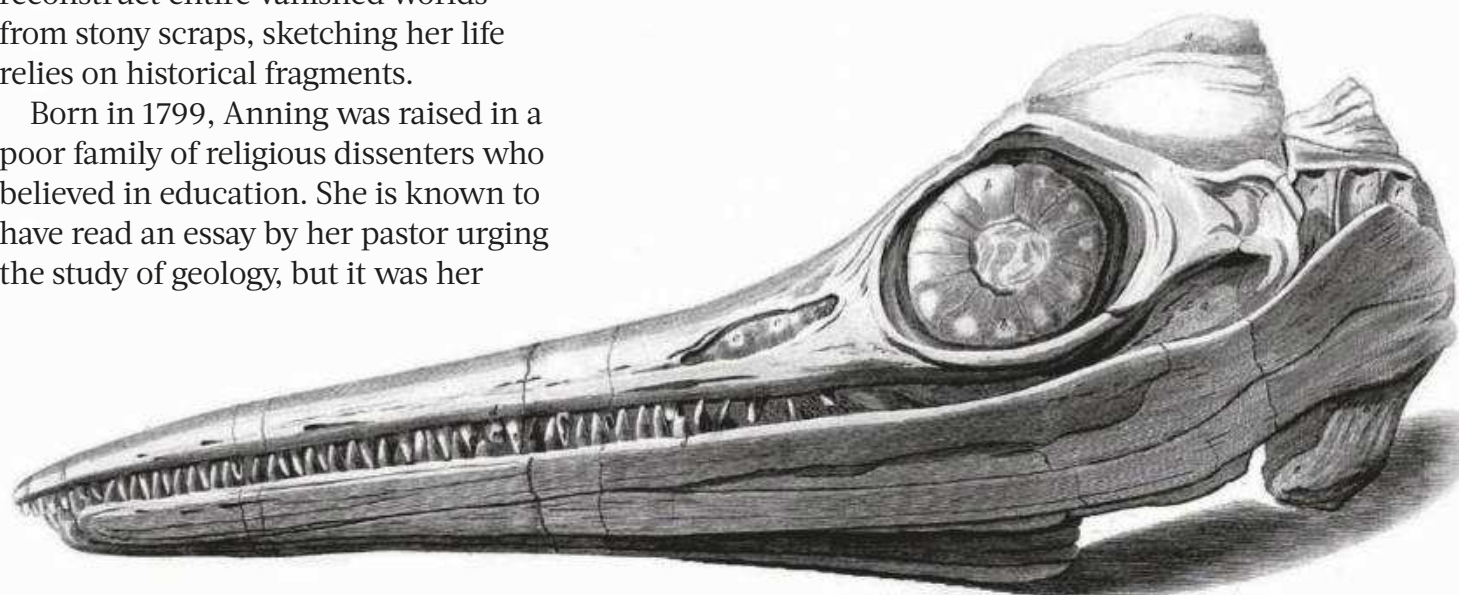
Today, the Natural History Museum proclaims her as the "greatest fossil hunter". But what made her so special? Like palaeontologists struggling to reconstruct entire vanished worlds from stony scraps, sketching her life relies on historical fragments.

Born in 1799, Anning was raised in a poor family of religious dissenters who believed in education. She is known to have read an essay by her pastor urging the study of geology, but it was her

ABOVE RIGHT: **Mary Anning's discoveries were great strides in palaeontology; the remains of fish can be seen in this ichthyosaur**  
BELOW: **Her first ichthyosaur, excavated in 1812, inspired many illustrations**

father Richard who nurtured her skill in fossil hunting. He scoured the beaches and seaside cliffs for objects to sell, to boost his income as a cabinet maker.

Sited next to extraordinarily rich Jurassic deposits dating back nearly 200 million years, Lyme Regis became known as a source of stony curios. As a child, Mary helped her father find, clean and sell these strange





The 95 miles of the Jurassic Coast offer fertile hunting grounds for ammonites



## “At the age of 12 she dug out the most complete ichthyosaur yet found”

– and yet to be explained – vestiges of a mysterious bestiary, from ammonites to predatory reptiles.

Combing the beach was a profitable but dangerous enterprise. The cliffs could collapse without warning, and there was always the risk of falling from them. In later life, Mary experienced further close escapes when she was nearly consumed by a landslide that killed her beloved dog, Tray, and she almost drowned while lost in concentration digging out a below-tide find.

### HER LEGEND BEGINS

In 1810, tragedy struck her family when Richard, in a weakened state after falling from the cliffs, contracted tuberculosis and died. The family was left in dire straits and it fell to Mary and her elder brother Joseph to turn a childhood hobby into a business.

Just a year later, they struck lucky. Joseph found a gigantic fossilised skull, which they initially believed might have

been a crocodile. As Joseph was too busy to excavate the rest of this creature, 12-year-old Mary took charge and, over the next few months, dug out the most complete ichthyosaur skeleton yet found, reaching a length of more than five metres long. A dolphin-like marine reptile, the ichthyosaur excited attention from museums and collectors alike. And yet the family income remained unstable.

Along the beaches of what is now known as England's Jurassic coast, the cliffs continued to offer up their prehistoric treasure to Anning's hammer. In the winter of 1823, she found the first almost-complete skeleton of a plesiosaur – the long-necked, four-flipped 'sea dragon' – a discovery that made her famous. The renowned French palaeontologist Georges Cuvier started referring to her as a collector of note.

In order to evaluate her finds and their potential value, Anning needed detailed anatomical expertise. She copied scientific articles by hand, but she was more than a sponge for the work of others. Curious and

## SISTERS IN SCIENCE

Mary Anning is often presented as a rare creature, emerging from dingy circumstances to shine bright, but alone. This is far from the truth. She was part of an informal network of women geologists and palaeontologists, which went far beyond her friend Elizabeth Philpot. An older fossil collector she might have heard of was Etheldred Bennett. When Anning was establishing her business, Bennett had a respected reputation, published new species and received an honorary degree from Tsar Nicholas I of Russia.

Another member of Anning's connections was Charlotte Murchison. The impetus behind her famous husband Roderick's geological career, Charlotte was trained in fossiling by Anning. The Murchisons went on extended European field trips with geologist pair Charles Lyell and his wife Mary Horner. Charlotte also knew William Buckland's wife Mary Morland. And it was thanks to a drawing by Morland – based on a sketch of Anning's – that Georges Cuvier was persuaded the plesiosaur skeleton Anning found in 1823 was real, having initially thought this “monstrous” creature must be a fake. From that point on, he began to cite Anning as an important collector.

Charlotte Murchison persuaded her husband to take up geology after he left the army





## A WOMAN'S WORLD

Mary Anning's death in 1847 came before the wheels bringing social equality for women really began to creak forwards. The Society for Promoting Employment of Women, an early feminist organisation, was only founded in 1859 and extensive education for women was still unusual. The more well-to-do women were freer to pursue intellectual interest for pleasure, and a surprising number of academic men had wives who were either motivators of, or unofficial collaborators in, their intellectual achievements.

By the 1830s, women were agitating for access to scientific circles. The mathematician and polymath Mary Somerville (*inset*) was friends with Britain's foremost geologist, Charles Lyell. Together with Anning's friend and fellow fossil hunter, Charlotte Murchison, she influenced him to admit female audience members to his lectures.

A few years after Mary Somerville died, a young woman called Catherine Raisin founded a women's intellectual club in her honour. In 1875, Raisin became the first woman to study geology at university and in 1884 – after full degrees were opened to women – gained a BSc in geology and zoology.



In the scientific paper announcing her big plesiosaur find of 1823, her role is hidden behind the phrase that the skeleton had been “discovered at Lyme”. Even when some, like Cuvier, named her, none offered the opportunity to co-author. Her finds were desired, but Anning remained an outsider to the scientific community.

### FRIENDS AND FOSSILS

Anning did, however, enjoy more equal fossiling relationships, particularly with women. A letter, now held at the University of Oxford's Museum of Natural History, written by her enduring collaborator Elizabeth Philpot, reveals how she became involved in a network of amateur female fossil collectors, geologists and palaeontologists.

Philpot, a middle-class spinster who had moved to Lyme Regis, went collecting nearly every day with Anning, but in contrast to her friend, she had no need to sell her hauls. They had an inventive collaboration too, as recounted in the letter. Anning realised that belemnites – a small, squid-like creature – contained ink sacs. After she shared this discovery, Philpot ground one up to make her own pigment, which she then used to sketch an ichthyosaur skull.

Together, they then sent this artistic and scientific co-production not to the prominent palaeontologist William Buckland, with whom they



After Mary Anning's observations, William Buckland came up with the term 'coprolites' for fossilised dung

had a regular correspondence, but his wife Mary Morland. Well before her marriage, she had cultivated an interest in fossils and illustrated for Cuvier, making her a skilled scientific draughtsperson.

While this letter opens a window on this part of Anning's life, it is still tricky to know what she was really like. A striking description by a visiting naturalist in 1837 focused on her energy, strength and tanned skin. Her only official portrait, painted late in life, is tinted by social decorum and time.

There is, however, a candid sketch by her geologist friend Henry De la Beche,

**“There were claims that the lightning incident had changed her constitution”**

unafraid to independently experiment and theorise, she dissected living creatures to better understand the mysterious bodies she was finding. Anning amassed a wealth of knowledge not only of excavation but palaeontology. She discovered new species, plus some of the first known examples of massive creatures such as pterosaurs – the first vertebrates known to have evolved to fly.

One of her more significant contributions was when she correctly deduced that strange stones she found were actually what became known as coprolites, or fossilised dung. This allowed scientists to study the diet of dinosaurs, and so learn a great deal about how they lived. Yet Anning's skills went beyond fossils to include geological principles and her business acumen.

When she was 27, she opened her own shop, Anning's Fossil Depot, with a glazed bow window displaying primeval enticements to passing tourists. Among her illustrious customers was the King of Saxony, to whom she sold an ichthyosaur, informing him, in no uncertain terms, of her celebrity status.

Yet despite her commercial success, she was keenly aware that she was getting a raw deal in professional terms.

Anning's Fossil Depot in Lyme Regis, as it looked in 1895



showing a mature woman in plaid skirt and dark cape, intent on the ground beneath her. She carries a geological hammer, and on her head is not a bonnet, but a top hat. While untitled, it's hard to imagine who else this might depict, with its business-like focus and slightly maverick feel to the headgear. And we know De la Beche was close to the Anning family, as he donated profits from two reconstructions of fossil creatures he painted, based on her finds.

Anning acquired something of a legendary reputation. There were even fanciful claims that the lightning incident as a baby had a metamorphic affect, changing her constitution and personality. Whatever the reality, she had a spark of intelligence and drive.





ABOVE: There is affection in Henry De la Beche's watercolour of Mary Anning  
ABOVE RIGHT: De la Beche also painted *Duria Antiquior* – A More Ancient Dorset, based on her finds of an ichthyosaur, plesiosaur and pterosaur

The same naturalist who noted her energy and complexion – and called her “the princess of palaeontology” – also found her to be masculine, which may refer to a blunt manner and unusual confidence. An alleged prickly character is perhaps understandable given what she overcame. In her own words: “The world has used me so unkindly, I fear it has made me suspicious of all mankind.”

Yet she wasn't down-trodden. Well aware of her expertise, Anning jokingly scorned Buckland's anatomical knowledge compared to her own, and she could be affectionate and generous. She kept her faith until the end, while beginning to accommodate evolution into her understanding.

Other insights into her personality can be gleaned from her commonplace book, a volume containing handwritten prayers, poems and quotations. Such a practice was not out of the ordinary, but Anning's demonstrates her ability to pick out gems amongst the Jurassic jetsam.

The book includes strikingly apposite literary selections, including poems that reference the “outcast's mis'ry”. Most poignant is a decidedly feminist quote from letters by Anna Seward: “Nothing but an independent fortune can enable an amiable female to look down, without misery, on the censures of the many, and even in that situation their arrows have power to wound.”

## TOWARDS IMMORTALITY

At the height of her expertise, Anning died of breast cancer aged 47. Her Commonplace Book whispers to us of a woman who rightly desired a legacy for her talent. Yet if she had been born into more fortunate circumstances, it

is possible that she might never have discovered her vocation.

Nearly two centuries on, Anning would no doubt be gratified at renewed interest in her work. She is increasingly a fixture in variations of ‘Ten Inspiring Women...’. But her status as a historic role model wasn't foisted on her by the 21st century.

Anning was deeply inspiring to young women who knew her personally. The 14-year-old Frances Augusta Bell came to Lyme Regis for health reasons and found friendship, and a palaeontology tutor, with the older Anning. Another young friend and correspondent was Anna Maria Pinney, who wrote in her journal, “I really love Mary Anning”. A telling posthumous account notes that Anning had become such a tourist attraction in her own right that after her death, visitor numbers to Lyme Regis decreased.

In palaeontology, the best route to immortality is via the naming of a grand fossil species. Other 19th-century women were honoured in this way during their lifetimes, but in the years following her death, Anning accrued just a couple of extinct molluscs, fish and coral. Finally, in 2015, she was bonded in perpetuity to a relative of one of the marvellous monsters for which she became famous, a new species of Ichthyosaur named *Ichthyosaurus anningae*. 📍

## GET HOOKED

### READ

*Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art* (Bloomsbury Sigma) by Rebecca Wragg Sykes will be published in 2019

### DISCOVER

TrowelBlazers celebrates women archaeologists, geologists and palaeontologists. [www.trowelblazers.com](http://www.trowelblazers.com)

## THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

Perhaps the best-known evidence of Mary Anning's scientific legacy is that she is widely believed to be the subject of *She sells seashells by the sea shore*. Her discoveries and self-taught work, although dismissed by a few as the efforts of simply a lucky collector, deserved far more than a tongue twister. And she did it without the equal access or opportunities that were given to her male contemporaries.

Anning's remarkable fossils are still in demand for research. One of her plesiosaurs is at the Natural History Museum in London, along with some ‘flying dragon’ pterosaurs. The latter are looked after by senior curator Dr Lorna Steel. In an echo back to the young Lyme fossil hunter of two centuries ago, Steel accepted a donation in 2013 of a newly discovered pterosaur, *Vectidraco daisymorrisae*, named for its discoverer, five-year-old Daisy Morris.

Despite a growing recognition of Anning's achievements, including a new wing at Lyme Regis Museum and an upcoming biopic, she has no statue in her hometown. That is something local girl Evie Swire wants to put right. You can learn more about her recently launched campaign, Mary Anning Rocks!, at [www.maryanningrocks.co.uk](http://www.maryanningrocks.co.uk).



MAIN: The Mary Anning wing of the Lyme Regis Museum  
BELOW: Daisy Morris found a new species aged five, which was around the age Anning started fossil hunting



# Q&A

## YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



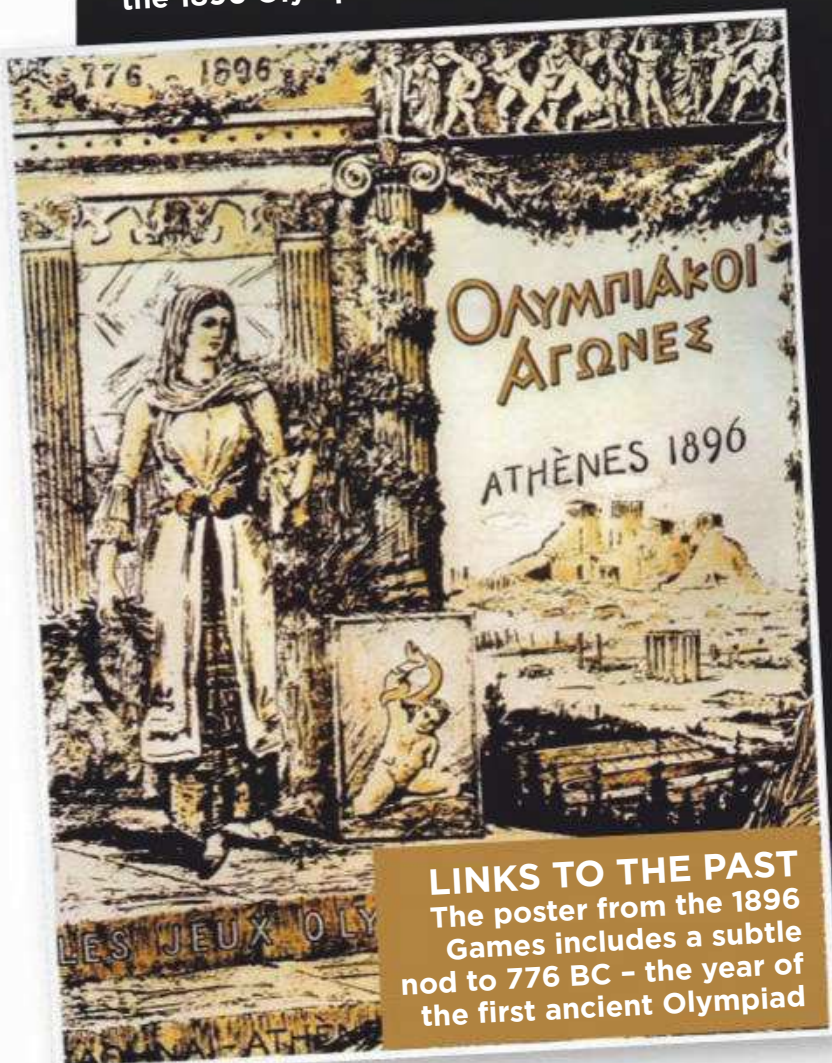
**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

### TAKE HOME THE SILVER

The winners of each event at the 1896 Olympics did not receive a gold medal, but a silver one, alongside an olive branch and a diploma. The gold, silver and bronze line up was not introduced until the 1904 games in St Louis.



**READY TO RUN**  
Sprinters line up for the 100m final at the 1896 Olympics



**LINKS TO THE PAST**  
The poster from the 1896 Games includes a subtle nod to 776 BC – the year of the first ancient Olympiad

## WHAT WERE THE EVENTS AT THE FIRST MODERN OLYMPICS?



After a hiatus of more than 1,500 years, the Olympics returned to Greece in April 1896. Competitors from 14 countries converged on Athens to take part in 43 events (compared to more than 300 at Rio 2016) including weightlifting, wrestling, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, shooting, track and field, and a marathon along the legendary route taken by Pheidippides. The ancient

sports formed the template, but boxing was replaced with the more civilised fencing, whilst chariot racing became cycling.

If that all sounds rather sensible, disciplines were far more unusual at the following Olympics in Paris. Imagine picking up the gold for tug of war, ballooning, live pigeon shooting, high and long jumps whilst on horseback, or the swimming obstacle course.



# WHO WROTE THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS?



In late 1947, a young Bedouin shepherd was searching for a lost goat in the rocky terrain of Qumran, near the Dead Sea, when he stumbled upon a cave with ancient jars inside, each containing fragments of material. It was the beginning of an incredible discovery.

Over the next decade, some 15,000 fragments from 800 to 900 leather and papyrus documents – plus one engraved on copper – were found across 11 caves. The Dead Sea Scrolls, mostly written in Hebrew and Aramaic, date from the third century BC to the first century AD. They include the oldest-known manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible and a host of writings about Jewish history and early Christianity.

## BACK FROM THE DEAD

Who wrote the scrolls? The Essenes, the Sadducees and the Zealots have all been mooted as authors



# 44

The number of years that Indian spiritual master Meher Baba kept a vow of silence, ending with his death. He would communicate by hand gestures and pointing out words on an alphabet board.

**FAKE OR REAL?**  
This is one of the real ones: Little Moreton Hall in Cheshire was completed in 1610



# WHY ARE TUDOR HOUSES BLACK AND WHITE?



Half-timbered houses were all the rage in the 15th and 16th centuries, built using the ancient method of wattle and daub.

The frame of the building would be constructed from timber, then a woven mesh of sticks (the wattle) was packed into the spaces and covered

with a mix of clay, mud, straw and dung (the daub). The building frame was then coated in tar, while the wattle and daub was whitewashed, giving the house its distinctive colours.

That doesn't mean all black-and-white houses in Britain today are as old as Tudor times. Many were built during the Revival Period of the 19th century.



# What did the Vikings do for us?



Make no mistake, the Vikings brought far more from across the sea than raiding, bloodletting and monk-chopping axe skills. The word 'mistake', for example, is one of theirs.

The influence of the Norsemen, explorers at heart, spread across Europe and beyond. Their trading networks reached as far as

Russia, and a Viking, named Leif Erikson, set foot on North America almost half a millennium before Christopher Columbus even got close.

Wherever they went, they brought art, culture and technology, from the epic poems and sagas that forever changed storytelling, to shipbuilding in the mould of their superior

longboats. They introduced skiing to Europe and, always meticulous with their haircare, the comb.

Infrastructure was established, particularly around longphorts (defended ports). If it wasn't for the Vikings building one on the east Irish coast in AD 841, there may not be a Dublin today.

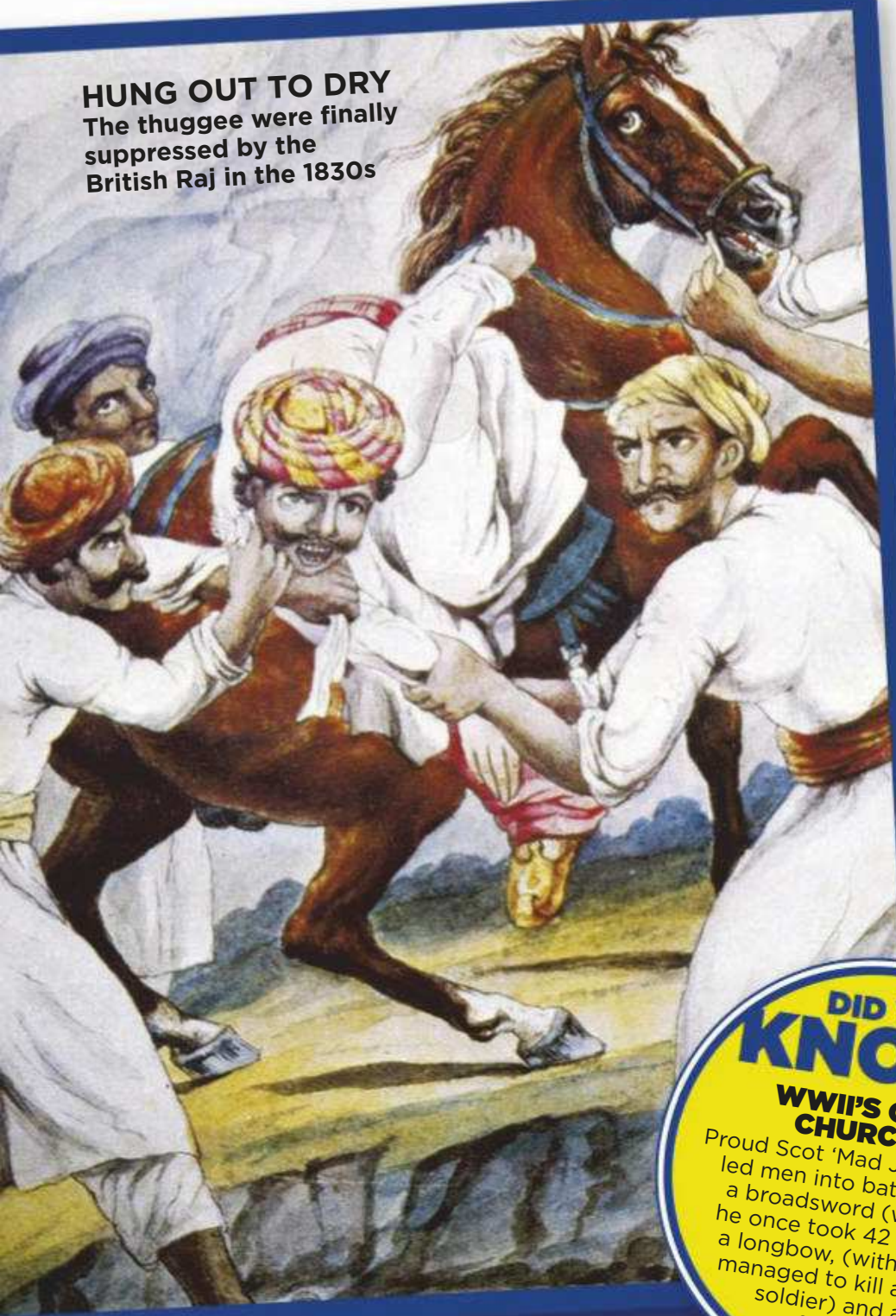
As with 'mistake', Viking influence can be felt through

language as words derived from Old Norse are counted in bulk (bulk, there's one). Some are undeniably Vikingish – slaughter, berserk, scare and take – while others are more everyday, like cake, window, race, freckles, husband and happy. Four days of the week are named after Norse deities, so there's really no getting away from it.

**HAIR AFFAIR**  
It's little wonder the Norsemen had such luscious locks



**HUNG OUT TO DRY**  
The thuggee were finally suppressed by the British Raj in the 1830s



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**WWII'S OTHER CHURCHILL**

Proud Scot 'Mad Jack' Churchill led men into battle carrying a broadsword (with which he once took 42 prisoners), a longbow, (with which he managed to kill an enemy soldier) and a pair of bagpipes.

## Where does the term 'thug' come from?

‘Thug’ is a loaded term in the US today, seen by some as a racial slur. But its origins are Indian – the Hindi word means deceiver or swindler, and referred to members of a powerful gang (thuggee) from the 14th to 19th centuries. These thugs were essentially long-distance highway robbers. Their modus operandi was to join groups of travellers and only strike after they had gained their new friends’ trust. The estimates of how many died at the hands of the thuggee – literally, as strangulation was the method of choice – range from tens of thousands to two million. The gang was eventually eradicated by the British, but by then its bloodthirsty legacy, and name, had spread.

**HIGH FLYER**  
Bruce Lee founded a new martial art style: Jeet Kune Do



## WAS BRUCE LEE KILLED ON SET?

The 1973 all-punching, high-kicking extravaganza *Enter the Dragon* got the western world completely hooked on martial arts and turned its star into an instant global icon. Yet Bruce Lee did not live to see its success, having died a matter of weeks before its US release.

The untimeliness of Bruce’s death proved too much for his new wave of fans – how could this 32-year-old, at the peak of physical fitness, be snatched away at the moment his genius had been unveiled?

The rumour mill whirled into action and soon Bruce had been bumped off by triads, hit by a martial arts move called the Touch of Death, and fallen victim to a family curse. What really happened was more mundane. On 20 July 1973, Bruce complained of a headache,

took a painkiller and went to lie down, never to wake. It may have been a reaction to the medication or, as suggested in the recent biography of Bruce by Matthew Polly, a heat stroke.

In the years since his death, the conspiracies have continued to fascinate and mutated into the erroneous claim that he was killed on the set of a movie after being shot by a faulty prop gun. That actually happened to his son Brandon, whilst filming *The Crow* in 1993.

In a compellingly eerie coincidence that helped the rumour gain traction, Bruce’s character in *Game of Death*, the film he was working on when he died, is shot on a film set when his enemies fill a prop gun with real bullets.

## What breeds of cat lived in Ancient Egypt?

The jungle cat and African wildcat are the two main breeds associated with Ancient Egypt, although wall paintings may feature cats similar to today’s Egyptian Mau or Abyssinian too. These cats were larger than the average pet moggy and keen hunters, preying on bothersome rodents and snakes. For their skills at pest control, and their natural adorability, Egyptians fell in love with the cat.

They held them to be sacred, depicted gods with the head of a cat and mummified them after death. (Quick note to cat owners: that is not to say there are any breeds that shouldn’t be held sacred.)



**TIL DEATH US DO... OH**  
Ancient Egyptians loved cats so much they even took them to the afterlife





**BLINDINGLY CRUEL**  
The sight of suffering troops wasn't enough to stop Britain developing mustard gas too

# WHO INVENTED MUSTARD GAS?

“Death is death, however it is inflicted,” said gifted chemist Fritz Haber, the ‘father of chemical warfare’. Ignoring the Hague Convention of 1907, which banned the use of poison gas as a weapon, he wholeheartedly experimented with chlorine during the early months of World War I.

Haber oversaw the first chlorine gas attack on 22 April 1915, which appalled his wife Clara, a brilliant chemist in her own right. She took her own life with his pistol on 2 May; the next day he went to the Eastern Front for the first gas attack against the Russians.

It would be 1917 before the Germans, under Haber’s direction, developed mustard gas. Before long, it was dubbed the ‘King of the Battle Gases’, inflicting more casualties than all other chemical agents combined. Of the 185,000 gas casualties, all but 10,000 came after mustard gas’s introduction.

With a peppery smell and yellowish hue, mustard gas blistered the skin and lungs, caused vomiting and temporary blindness. It could be absorbed through the skin, rendering gas masks useless, and even if it didn’t kill, it removed thousands of exposed soldiers from the trenches for weeks at a time.

Haber wasn’t just a purveyor of poison, though. He won the Nobel Prize in 1918 for a pre-war process he developed to allow for the industrial-scale production of ammonia for use as a fertiliser. It vastly increased crop output and is responsible today for feeding up to half the world’s population.

**40,000**

The number of soldiers that the Duke of Wellington claimed the presence of his rival, Napoleon Bonaparte, was worth on the battlefield.

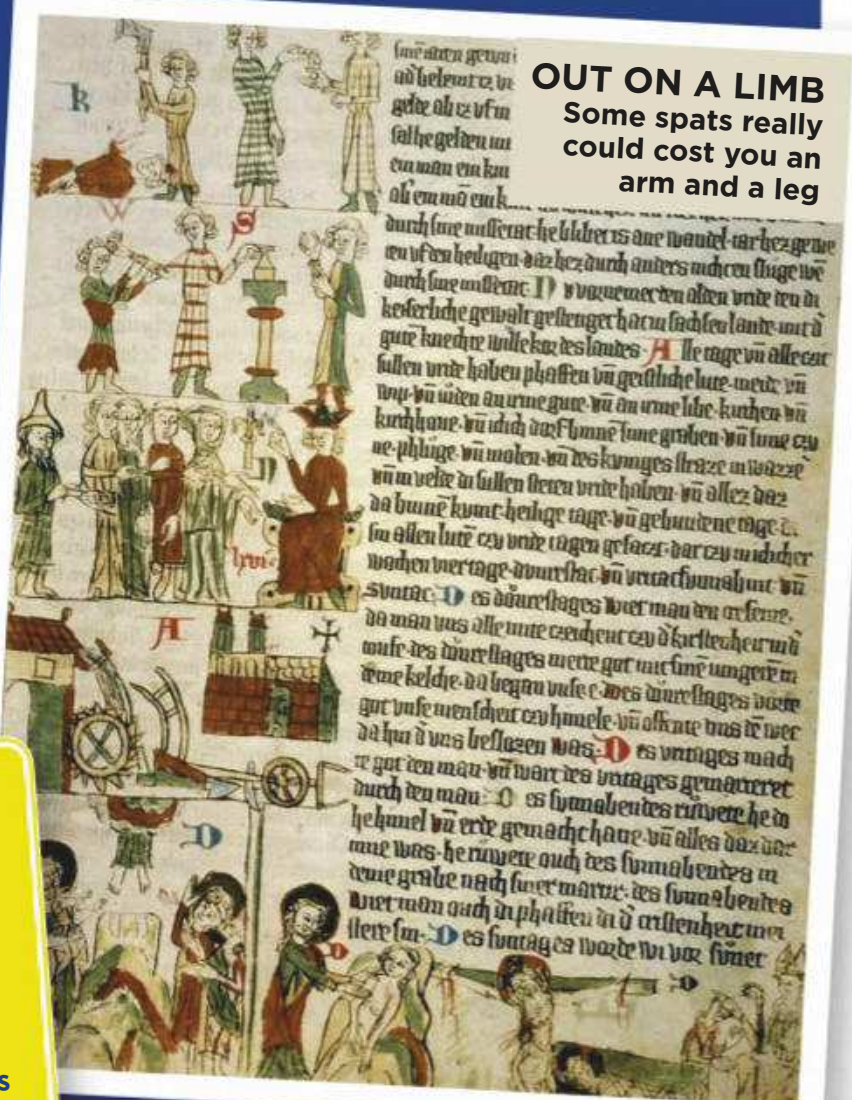
## What was the weregild?



How much is a finger worth? Or a nose? Well, under a law called weregild, the answer was nine or 60 shillings respectively.

In Saxon society, if a person stole property or injured someone, they paid compensation to the victim, or to the victim’s family in the case of murder. Weregild, meaning ‘man payment’ in Old English, was intended as an alternative to the proliferation of seemingly endless blood feuds.

A person’s worth was determined by their status. So while the typical figure was 200 shillings, a noble or member of the clergy could be 1,200. In some places, a woman’s weregild could be double that of a man. And don’t forget that body parts were all assigned a value too.



**OUT ON A LIMB**  
Some spats really could cost you an arm and a leg

## WHAT WAS XANADU?

Sorry Olivia Newton-John fans, this isn’t about her 1980 musical and song. Xanadu, or Shangdu, was the summer retreat of Mongol ruler Kublai Khan. Destroyed in 1369, only accounts of its grandeur remained, but that was enough to inspire poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge. That, and opium.

In 1797, hundreds of lines of verse about Xanadu came to him in a drug-induced dream. When published, the poem ignited interest in the palace and made the name a touchstone for splendour and opulence. Perhaps that’s why Xanadu was chosen for the name of the obscenely palatial home of the titular character in *Citizen Kane*.

**MARBLE-LOUS**  
Marco Polo described Xanadu as having “a very fine marble palace, the rooms of which are all gilt”



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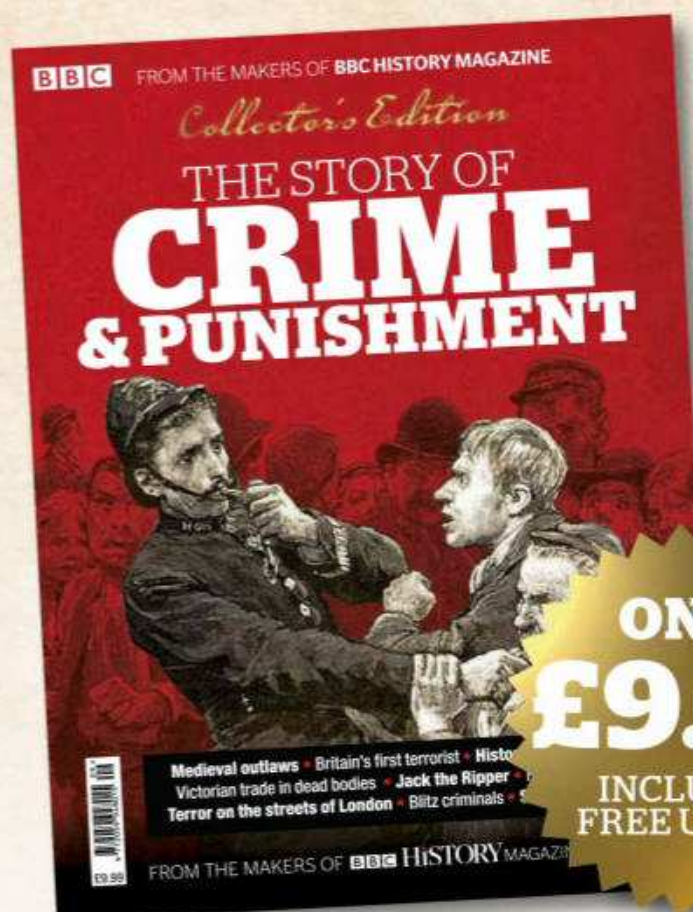




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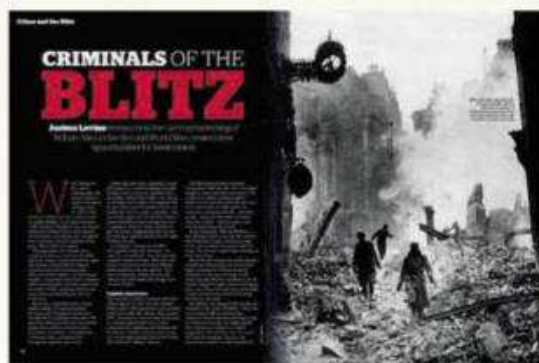
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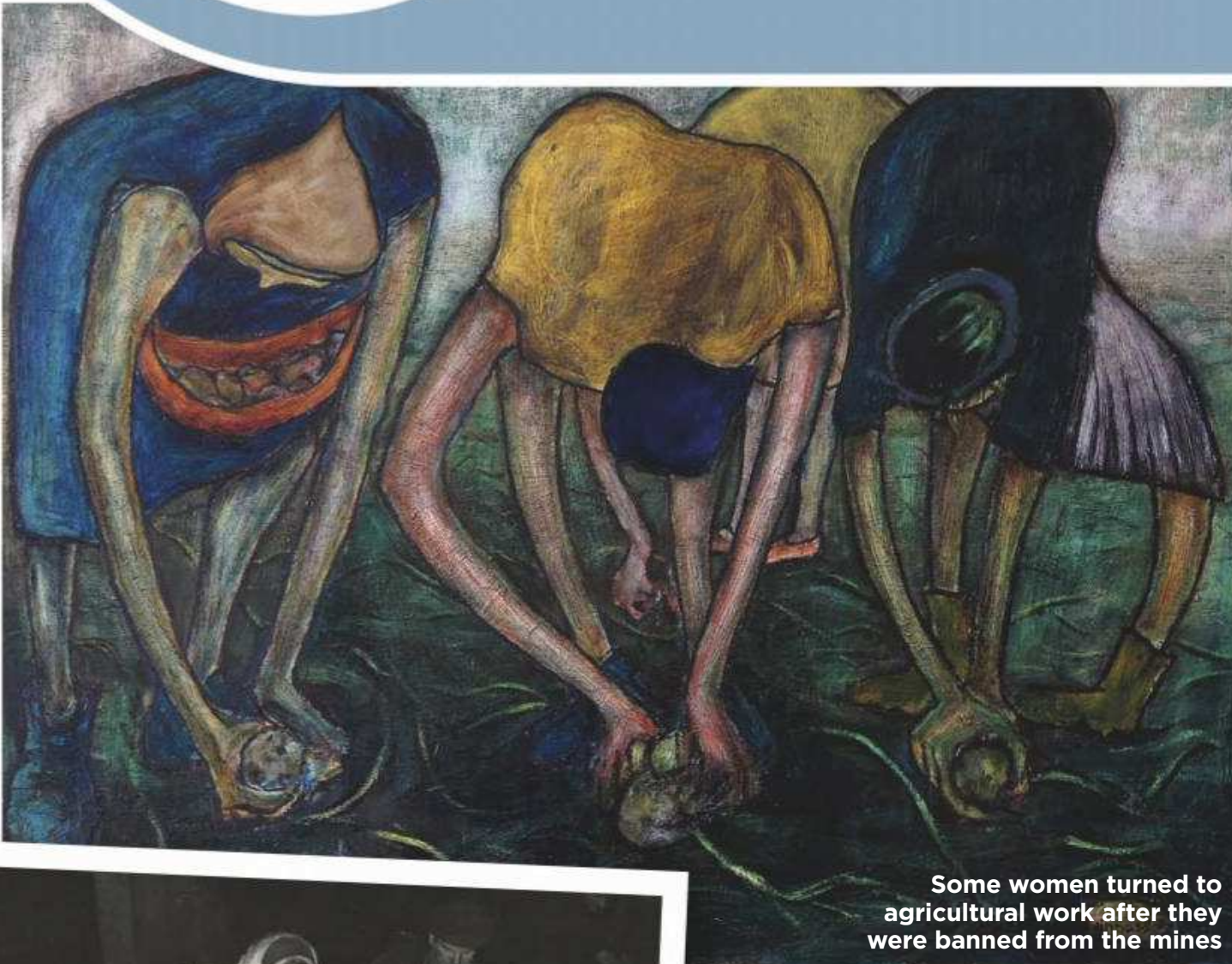
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# ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening in  
the world of history over  
the coming weeks



Some women turned to  
agricultural work after they  
were banned from the mines



ABOVE: **Women picking  
stone from coal**  
RIGHT: **Pit Brow Lasses  
in Wigan, c1887**



## EXHIBITION

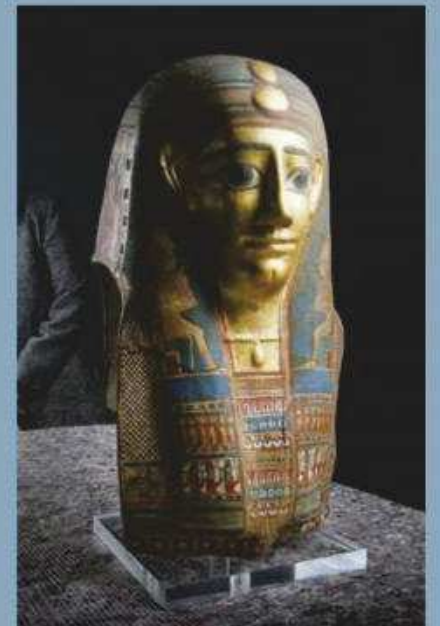
### Breaking Ground – Women of the Northern Coalfields

Mining Art Gallery, Bishop Auckland, County  
Durham, until 24 March 2019, [bit.ly/2IB3CnX](http://bit.ly/2IB3CnX)

When we think of a Victorian miner, an image of a man covered in soot often springs to mind. The truth is that working in the mines was traditionally a family affair – women would work alongside men underground. At least they did, until they were banned in 1842. They had to find other ways of making a living, so the so-called Tip Girls, Pit Brow Lasses and Pit Bank Women would don men's clothes and haul bags of coal on the surface. The stories of these women, who toiled in the coal fields, is told through photographs, artwork and personal testimonies.

## WHAT'S ON

Bolton's Egypt ..... p81



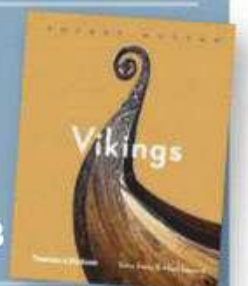
## BRITAIN'S TREASURES

Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon ..... p86



## BOOK REVIEWS

Our look at  
the best new  
releases....p88



## POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Your best photos of  
historical landmarks...p92



TOM MCGUINNESS FAMILY COLLECTION XI, COURTESY OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL COAL MINING MUSEUM FOR ENGLAND XI, GETTY X2, YANWEN YU X1





**Mirror**  
From Tomb 197, Abydos  
Date: 2600-2500 BC  
Period: Old Kingdom  
Material: Copper alloy

**Mirror**  
From Tomb 197, Abydos  
Date: 2600-2500 BC  
Period: Old Kingdom  
Material: Copper alloy

**Bust of Nefertiti**  
Nefertiti was the Great Wife of Akhenaten, the pharaoh who made Egypt famous for its art and architecture. She is one of the most beautiful women in ancient Egypt. Her name means 'the beautiful one has come'. She is still regarded as one of the most beautiful women in history.





**NEW GALLERY**

# Bolton's Egypt

Bolton Museum, open now, [www.boltonlams.co.uk/museum](http://www.boltonlams.co.uk/museum)

More than 2,000 treasures from Ancient Egypt are on display in a new gallery in Bolton Museum. A full-size replica of the tomb of Thutmose III has been created that visitors can walk through – it also happens to be the final resting place of Bolton's famous mummy, believed to be of royal descent. Part of a £3.8 million refurbishment, the five new rooms contain objects such as funeral masks and weapons. The town has a long-standing connection with Egypt, housing the largest Egyptian collection in a British local authority museum.

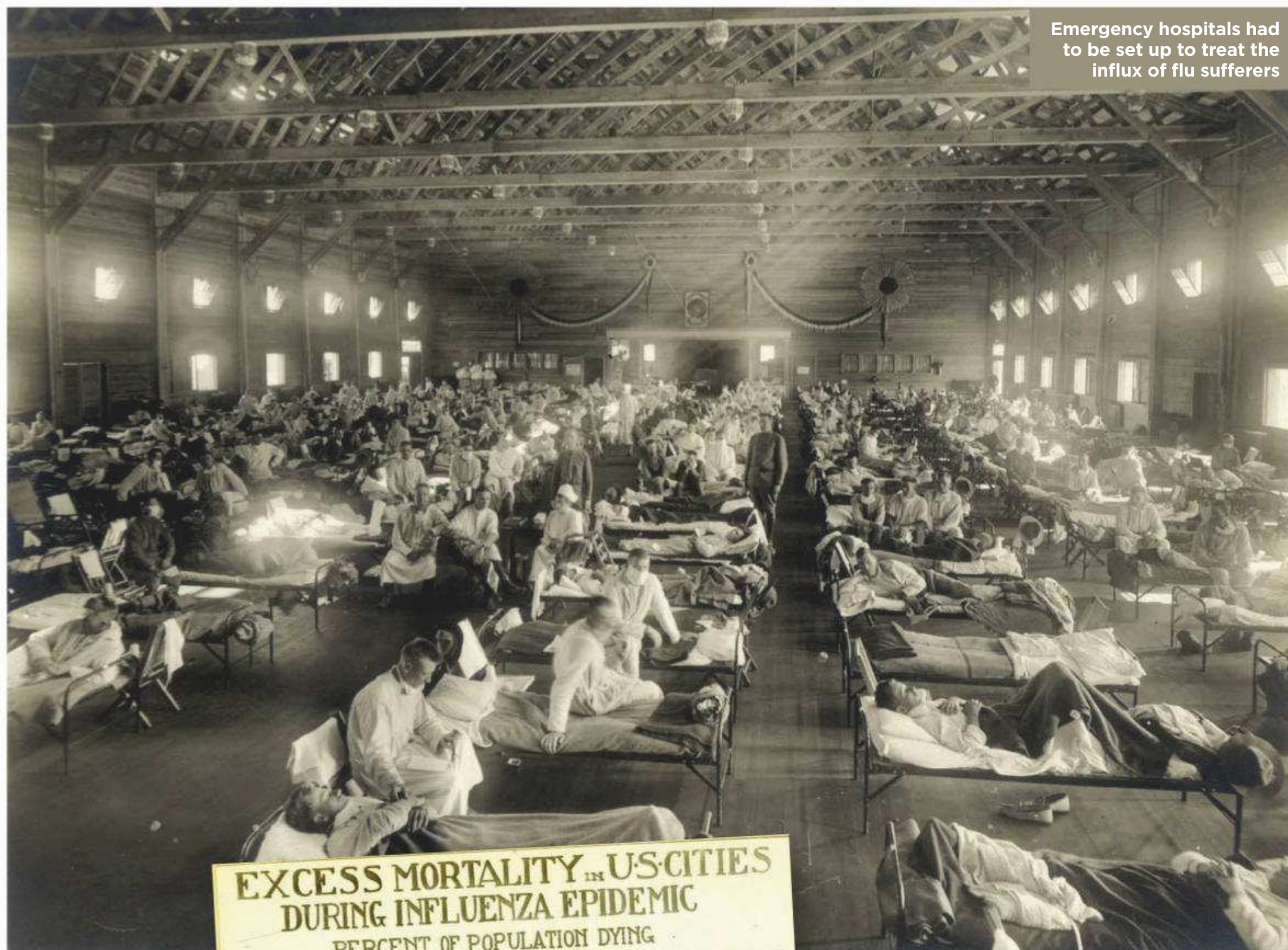
**Double Kohl Tube**

From: Tomb 1423, Abydos  
Date: 1295-1269 BC  
Period: Dynasty 19-20  
Material: Wood and

**Double Kohl Tube and Applicator Stick**

From: Tomb E155, Abydos  
Date: 1550-1295 BC  
Period: Dynasty 18  
Material: Wood and





Emergency hospitals had to be set up to treat the influx of flu sufferers

### EXCESS MORTALITY IN U.S. CITIES DURING INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

PERCENT OF POPULATION DYING

PHILADELPHIA

1918-1919

CITY

SEPT. 8 - NOV. 23  
10 WEEKS

NOV. 24 - FEB. 1  
10 WEEKS

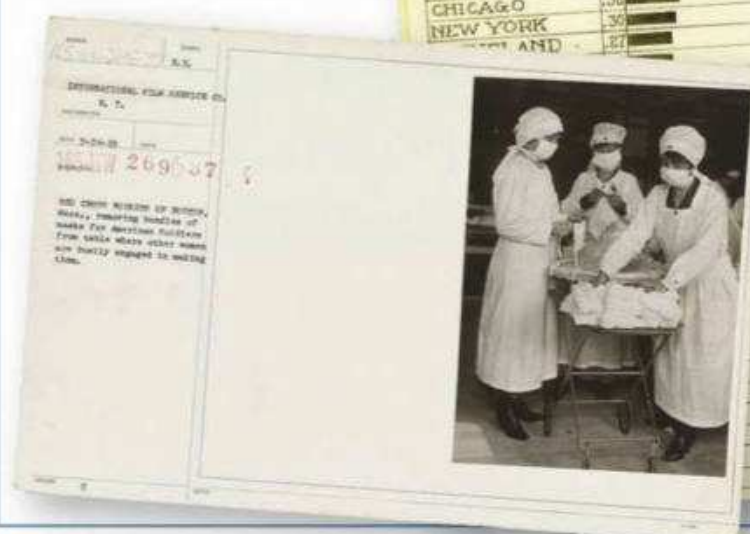
FEB. 2 - MAR. 29  
8 WEEKS

TOTAL  
28 WEEKS

	0	2	4	6	8	0	2	4	6	8	0	2	4	6	8
PHILADELPHIA	69					.011					.031				73
FALL RIVER	59					.058					.068				71
PITTSBURGH	39					.12					.0				60
BALTIMORE	57					.031					.021				58
SYRACUSE	50					.021					.12				63
NASHVILLE	55					.16					.0				62
BOSTON	50					.12					.0				61
NEW HAVEN	49					.13					.0				71
NEW ORLEANS	49					.21					.021				53
ALBANY	48					.031					.04				61
BUFFALO	47					.10					.0				54
WASHINGTON	45					.11					.031				56
LOWELL	44					.10					.021				74
SAN FRANCISCO	43					.21					.0				50
CAMBRIDGE	39					.12					.04				53
NEWARK	39					.11					.031				53
PROVIDENCE	38					.13					.021				55
RICHMOND	35					.16					.031				57
DAYTON	33					.021					.011				56
OAKLAND	30					.22					.04				46
CHICAGO	33					.09					.04				47
NEW YORK	38					.09					.00				42
AND	27					.09					.041				55
						.11					.01				37
						.26					.09				40
						.021					.501				60
						.12					.00				43
						.27					.07				46
						.31					.11				43
						.43					.0				37
						.20					.14				34
						.04					.021				41
						.13					.07				40
						.43					.031				17
						.22					.0				24
						.021					.07				36
						.11					.021				31
						.18					.00				29
						.09					.0				37
						.17					.03				34
						.18					.04				25
						.19					.03				19
						.13					.0				19
						.19					.04				

RIGHT: Mortality rates in US cities were highest in the first ten weeks of the pandemic

BELOW: Nurses making flu masks for US soldiers



## EXHIBITION

# More Deadly than War: Spanish Flu and the Threat of Pandemic

Torquay Museum, until 24 February 2019, [bit.ly/2PaWGQY](http://bit.ly/2PaWGQY)

An estimated 16-17 million people were killed during World War I. That terrifying toll is eclipsed by that caused by the Spanish flu, a pandemic that began in the same year the war ended and claimed up to 50 million lives. The pandemic is the focus of an exhibition in Devon that will explore the deadly virus that claimed so many lives, but is not remembered in the same way as those killed in the war. Unlike other strains of flu, the young were often the first victims, and across Britain churches, schools and cinemas were closed amidst fears of its spread.



## EXHIBITION

### The Last Tsar: Blood and Revolution

Science Museum, London, until 24 March, [www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/last-tsar-blood-and-revolution](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/last-tsar-blood-and-revolution)

This exhibition explores a less frequently studied aspect of the lives of the Romanovs: that of science. Medicine played a huge role during Nicholas II's reign, from his son Alexei's rare condition of haemophilia to their belief in the healing powers of mystic Rasputin. Visitors can visit a recreated crime scene from their mysterious disappearance, see X-rays taken of the Tsar and Tsarina, as well as their personal possessions.



The Romanovs were allegedly executed on Lenin's orders

## TO BUY

### Richard the Lionheart Mouse Ornament

£15.90, Etsy, [etsy.me/2Qon6yM](https://etsy.me/2Qon6yM)

A quirky gift for animal and history lovers alike, this wooden mouse ornament has been designed to resemble King Richard I, one of the leading faces of the Third Crusade. These wooden figures are inspired by original medieval carvings found in cathedrals.



Each rodent Richard is carved by hand



## FILM

### Peterloo

In cinemas 2 November

Mike Leigh's *Peterloo* examines the causes and fallout of the massacre



In 1819, a peaceful rally in Manchester – calling for parliamentary reform – transformed into one of the bloodiest events in British history. Director Mike Leigh has chosen the Peterloo Massacre as his next cinematic outing, just in time for its bicentenary next year. With an ensemble cast including Rory Kinnear and Maxine Peake, the film explores the events of 16 August 1819, when cavalry rode into a group of 60,000 unarmed people, killing an estimated 18 and injuring several hundred. This act of violence was met with a mixture of sympathy and fear of revolution, and is believed to have aided the rise of the Chartist movement.

## EXHIBITION

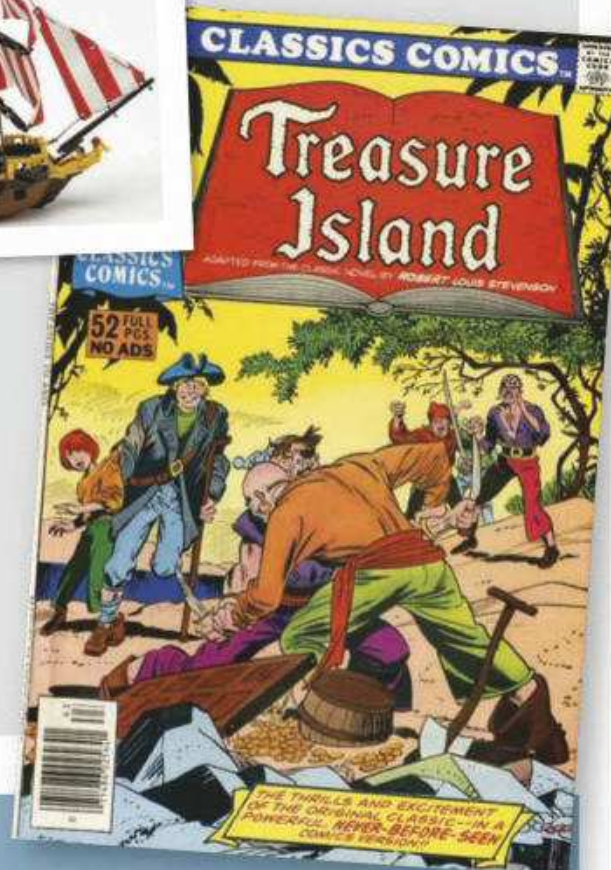
### A Pirate's Life For Me

V&A Museum of Childhood, London, until 22 April 2019  
[www.vam.ac.uk/moc/exhibitions/a-pirates-life-for-me](http://www.vam.ac.uk/moc/exhibitions/a-pirates-life-for-me)



Toys and comics tend to paint pirates as adventurers

Ahoy me hearties! Set sail for a swashbuckling exhibition full of treasure and fun. Created with the help of those who love pirates the most – children – the exhibition will explore why the outlaws of the sea continue to entertain us. Toys, Lego pirate ships and the first painting of Captain Pugwash will feature in this showcase, which looks at what it is about fictional pirates that inspires children. A large-scale pirate ship is at the heart of the exhibition, which aims to encourage learning through play.



## ▶ ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- ▶ **Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure** – Dippy the Diplodocus is touring Britain after years in the Natural History Museum in London. Find him at Ulster Museum, Belfast, until 6 January 2019. [bit.ly/2Cr4i4l](https://bit.ly/2Cr4i4l)
- ▶ **Alfred Munnings: War Artist** – Exhibition of paintings from the WWI artist. National Army Museum, Chelsea, 30 November 2018 to 3 March 2019. [bit.ly/2pAK7TZ](https://bit.ly/2pAK7TZ)



## PINTS AND POETRY

Shakespeare's Birthplace was not only a family home – years after the Bard's death, the main house was converted into a pub, the Swan and Maidenhead Inn.



## BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

SHAKESPEARE'S STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, Warwickshire

Once an unassuming market town, the success of its most famous resident ensures that Stratford-upon-Avon retains its Tudor charm

## GETTING THERE

Stratford-upon-Avon is just off Junction 15 of the M40. Trains connect to Birmingham direct and to London via Warwick.



## TIMES AND PRICES

Most of the properties are open daily, with closures for Christmas and New Year; Mary Arden's Farm is closed from 4 November until Spring 2019. A ticket to visit all five properties is £20.25 for adults, with individual prices from £7.65 to £15.75.

## FIND OUT MORE

[www.visitstratforduponavon.co.uk/](http://www.visitstratforduponavon.co.uk/)  
[www.shakespeare.org.uk](http://www.shakespeare.org.uk)

**T**he riverside town of Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire is indelibly linked to its most famous resident, the playwright William Shakespeare – and much of it still looks how it would have when the Bard strolled around the streets.

Shakespeare grew up here in the late 16th century, when Stratford-upon-Avon was an important centre for the wool merchants and tanners – its position astride the River Avon made it a gateway to Britain's canal network. He married Anne Hathaway at the age of 18, and would come to divide his

time between the family home and London, choosing to finally retire to his hometown. Fans of the Bard can visit five dwellings in Stratford-upon-Avon with links to him, as well as his final resting place.

In 1769, Shakespearean actor David Garrick put Stratford firmly on the map when he oversaw a Jubilee celebrating the playwright's life and works. Although the festivities didn't go entirely to plan due to heavy rain, a surge of interest in Shakespeare saw Stratford-upon-Avon become a favourite tourist destination in Britain. Many modern

buildings feature mock-Tudor facades to ensure visitors feel they're still walking around in Shakespeare's time.

On Henley Street – the start of what is known as the town's 'Historic Spine' – sits a simple half-timbered house. In 1564, this was the grandest house on the street, and also where Shakespeare was born. As mayor of the town, Shakespeare's father John was wealthy enough to own the house, and used part of it for glove-making and wool-dealing. It was owned by descendants of Shakespeare's sister until





## WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



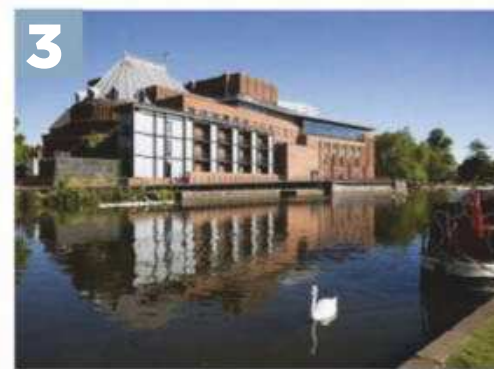
### 1 ANNE HATHAWAY'S COTTAGE

The romantic thatched cottage of Shakespeare's wife still contains furniture dating back to when she lived there.



### 2 SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE

The home where Shakespeare was born features a window autographed by famous visitors to the house.



### 3 ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

Owned by the Royal Shakespeare Company, this theatre continues to perform the Bard's plays and encourage a love for his work.



### 4 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Shakespeare's final resting place is also the oldest building in the town, originally built on the site of a Saxon monastery dating to 1210.



### 5 KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL

This 13th-century school is almost certainly where Shakespeare learnt to craft his beloved writing. Pupils are still taught there today.



### 6 NEW PLACE

Shakespeare's final home may be gone, but in its place is a traditional Tudor garden and information centre.

## “PT Barnum wanted to move the Bard's house to the US”

the 18th century, after which it fell into disrepair. It was put up for auction in 1847 – drawing the attention of American showman PT Barnum, who wanted to transport the house brick-by-brick to the US. It was only through the combined efforts of Charles Dickens and other literary fans that a committee was established to buy the house and ensure it remained in Britain.

### ROUND THE HOUSES

On the outskirts of the town is Anne Hathaway's thatched cottage – though it's much larger than a traditional cottage, with 12 rooms and multiple chimneys. This was where Hathaway lived before she married Shakespeare.

The cottage was built in 1463 and was still home to members of

the Hathaway family until 1911. It still has its original kitchen and parlour, and is surrounded by beautiful gardens.

Shakespeare's career in London swiftly took off, allowing him to buy the second largest house in Stratford, known as New Place, in 1597. This was where it's thought he wrote *The Tempest* (and several other plays), but it is no longer standing – the house was demolished by a later owner because of the annoyance of tourists wanting to look around.

Excavations have uncovered parts of the property, including the kitchens and foundations, and a traditional Tudor knot garden now commemorates the site. The house next door belonged to Thomas Nash, the husband of Shakespeare's granddaughter, and

is now a museum about the Bard furnished with original Tudor and Elizabethan furniture.

You can also visit the house of Shakespeare's daughter Susanna and her husband, Dr John Hall, a prominent physician. The house is still furnished in the Jacobean style, while many of the herbs and plants Hall used in his inventive remedies still grow in the garden.

Just beyond Stratford-upon-Avon is the village of Wilmcote, in which Shakespeare's mother Mary Arden inherited a farm. It has been altered over time but visitors can still imagine what a working Tudor farm would have been like. The neighbouring Palmer farmhouse, originally mistaken for Mary's, retains many of its 16th-century features. 📍

## WHY NOT VISIT...

Go beyond the Bard with this trio of historical sites

### WARWICK CASTLE

Playing a vital role in the Wars of the Roses, this castle is now a family attraction with one of the world's largest working trebuchets.

[www.warwick-castle.com](http://www.warwick-castle.com)

### BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM

With over 300 classic cars on display, this is the world's largest collection of British cars.

[www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk](http://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk)

### ALCESTER

This market town, eight miles from Stratford-upon-Avon, has beautifully preserved buildings from the Tudor and Georgian periods as well as an exhibition on its Roman past.

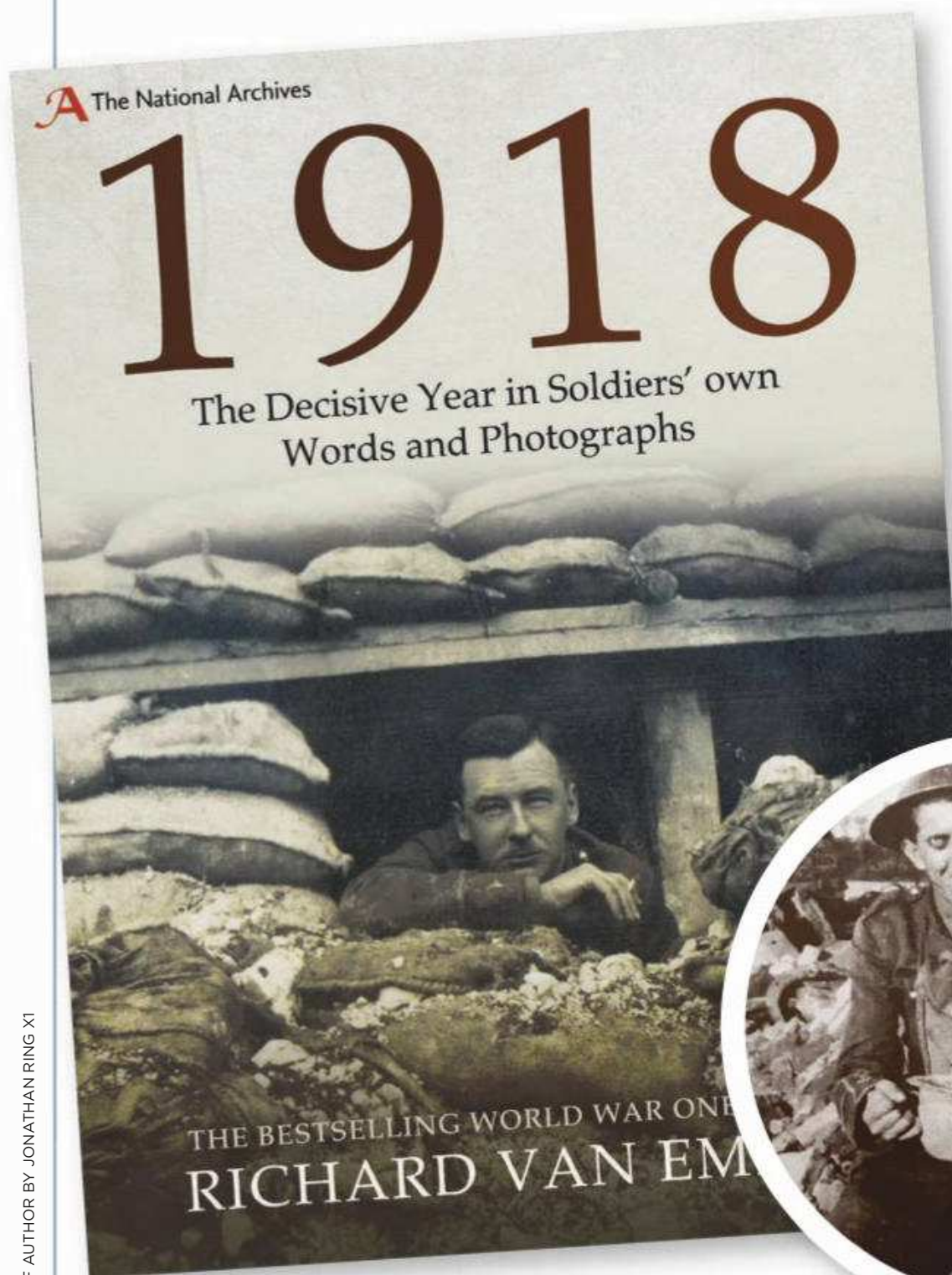
[www.alcester.co.uk](http://www.alcester.co.uk)



# BOOKS

This month's best historical reads

**BOOK  
OF THE  
MONTH**



## 1918: The Decisive Year in Soldiers' Own Words and Photographs

By Richard van Emden

Pen and Sword Military, £25, hardback, 392 pages

As the centenary of the end of World War I approaches, author and TV producer Richard van Emden concludes his year-by-year series chronicling the war through the words and photographs of soldiers on the front line. The book offers remarkable insight into not just the conflict's physical landscape, but the mentality of men who had by this point suffered through four years of bloodshed and loss. Their writing is often profound and hugely moving, and a sobering reminder of the reality of a war that continues to captivate and horrify in equal measure.

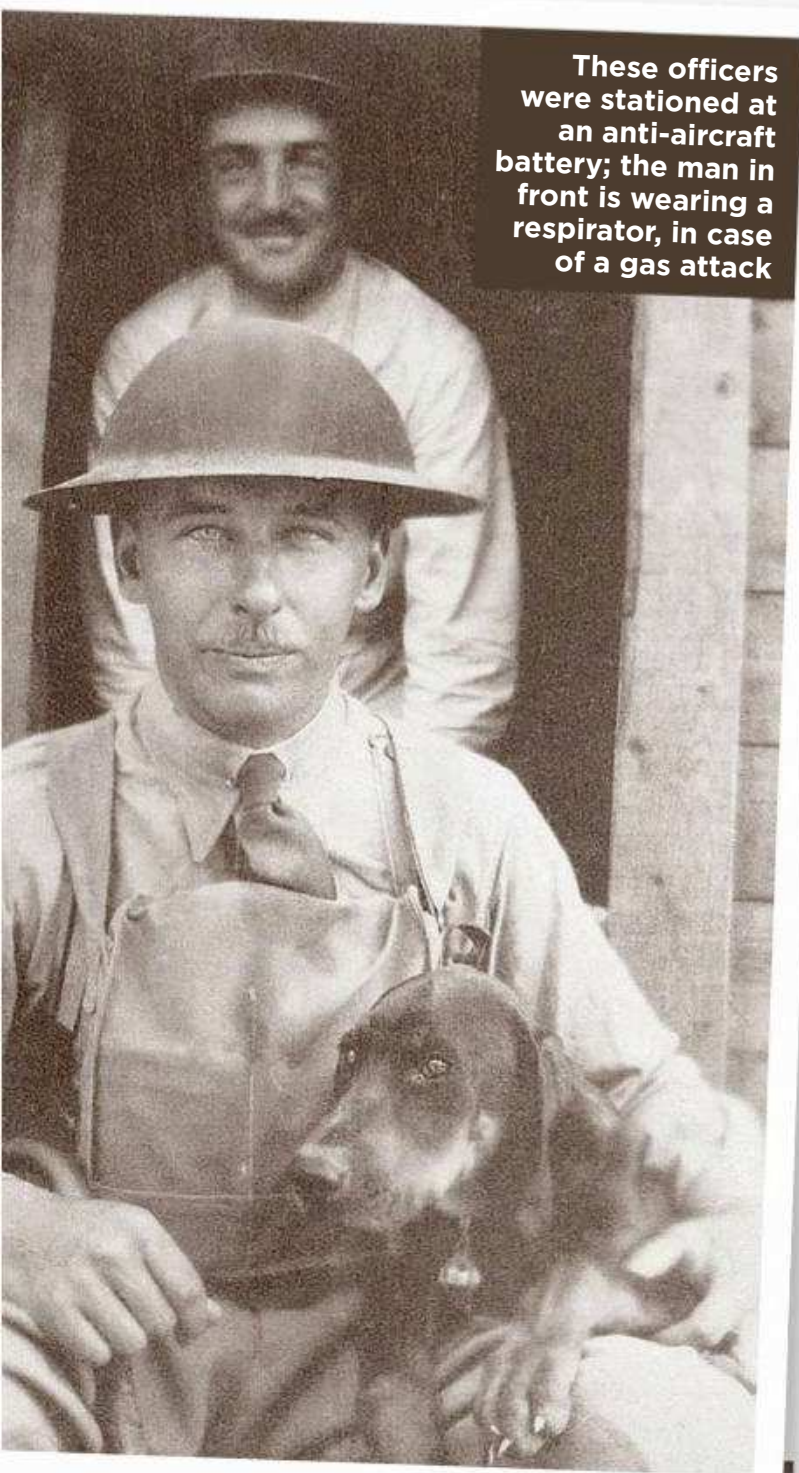
**Tea, the staple drink of the front, was drunk out of anything vaguely resembling a cup**



**"Their writing is often profound and hugely moving, a sobering reminder"**







These officers were stationed at an anti-aircraft battery; the man in front is wearing a respirator, in case of a gas attack



Soldiers weren't mired in misery all the time - these chaps are about to enjoy a cheery whisky and soda

## MEET THE AUTHOR

Delving deep into images from 1918, **Richard van Emden** finds that the last year of World War I was as brutal as any other – but also that it was marked by humour and hope

**This is the latest in your series on the men who fought in World War I. Were there any challenges inherent in covering the final year of the war?**

Cameras owned and used by soldiers at the front had been banned just before Christmas 1914, with stricter orders issued in 1915 that threatened court martial for anyone caught with a camera. This meant that the number of officers and men willing to use one surreptitiously declined rapidly. By 1918, with the war dragging on, few men still owned a camera and images are extremely rare. I had to undertake an extraordinary amount of work tracking down never-before-seen images, which had to be both gripping and varied in content.

**How did you access such a broad range of photographs?**

Around half the images come from my own collection of soldiers' photographs, gathered over a decade by buying albums from online auctions or militaria dealers. I sourced other images through regimental archives and, in a few cases, from good friends. It was crucial that I showed a different war from that which people normally associate with the conflict – the battlefields of autumn 1918, when open warfare was resumed, were not fought in muddy wastelands, such as those of Passchendaele, for example. Another image reveals two junior officers in a sunny field, one in pyjamas and slippers, both drinking whisky.

**Are there any stories or individuals that particularly stand out for you?**

One of the most outstanding writers is Reginald Kiernan of the Leicestershire Regiment. He is one of a handful of soldiers

whose memories I followed, so that we begin to understand and appreciate the man and not just his contribution to the overall narrative. He was a private, a lad who lied about his age to serve, but whose prose is astonishingly heartfelt. His descriptions of being in action are amongst the most powerful I have ever read. Equally, there are stories of great humour: we often forget that soldiers had to laugh about their war to survive mentally.

**What insights into the war as a whole in 1918 do we get from the words and images in this book?**

The final year of the war was every bit as bloody as any other, but in the end the final months offered hope and with it the promise of a life after war, back home with loved ones. I include, for example, letters from relieved families written as news of the armistice reached them. We see through both British and a smaller number of German images that soldiers' needs and interests were no different on either side of the battlefield.

**How would you like your book to change readers' impression of World War I?**

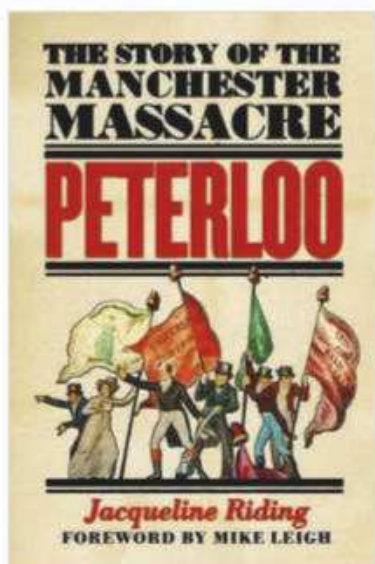
The last year of the war is fascinating because it had a little bit of everything: a great German offensive against the British, something not seen since mid-1915; bloody trench warfare, reminiscent of the worst days of the

Somme; and the re-emergence of a war of movement, akin to the heady days of 1914 but in which tanks, infantry, cavalry and aircraft all worked in unison. They were guided and coordinated in that by modern technologies such as wireless communication, and in a sense 1918 saw the final transition to what we would today recognise as modern warfare.



**“We often forget that soldiers had to laugh about their war to survive mentally”**



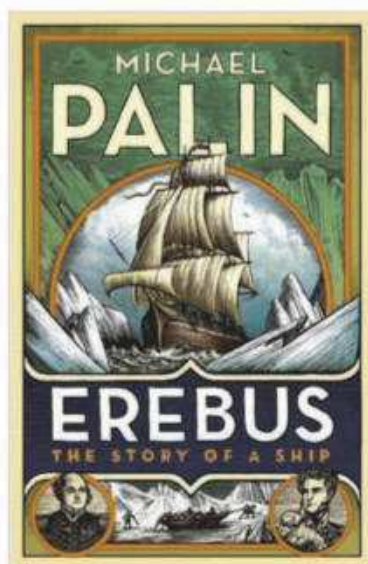


## Peterloo: The Story of the Manchester Massacre

By Jacqueline Riding

Head of Zeus, £25, hardback, 400 pages

When thousands of men, women and children gathered in St Peter's Field in Manchester on 16 August 1819 to call for parliamentary representation, few could have predicted the outcome: by the day's end, 15 were dead and hundreds injured, the victim of panicked decision-making and a violent response. It's a key moment in British political history, and this book, accompanying a new film from Mike Leigh, explores the causes and consequences.

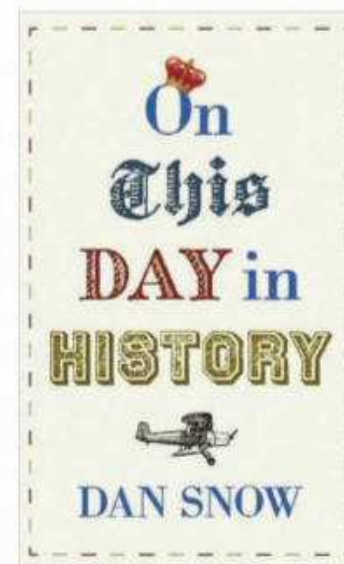


## Erebus: The Story of a Ship

By Michael Palin

Random House, £20, hardback, 352 pages

In May 1845, the HMS *Erebus* set out to chart the Arctic's frozen wastes. It was last seen entering a bay in the North Atlantic three months later; travelling on northward, it became icebound, its crew freezing to death. The story's overtones of both cannibalism and doomed heroism made it a Victorian media sensation. Following the rediscovery of the wreck in 2014, Michael Palin profiles the characters in this extraordinary story.

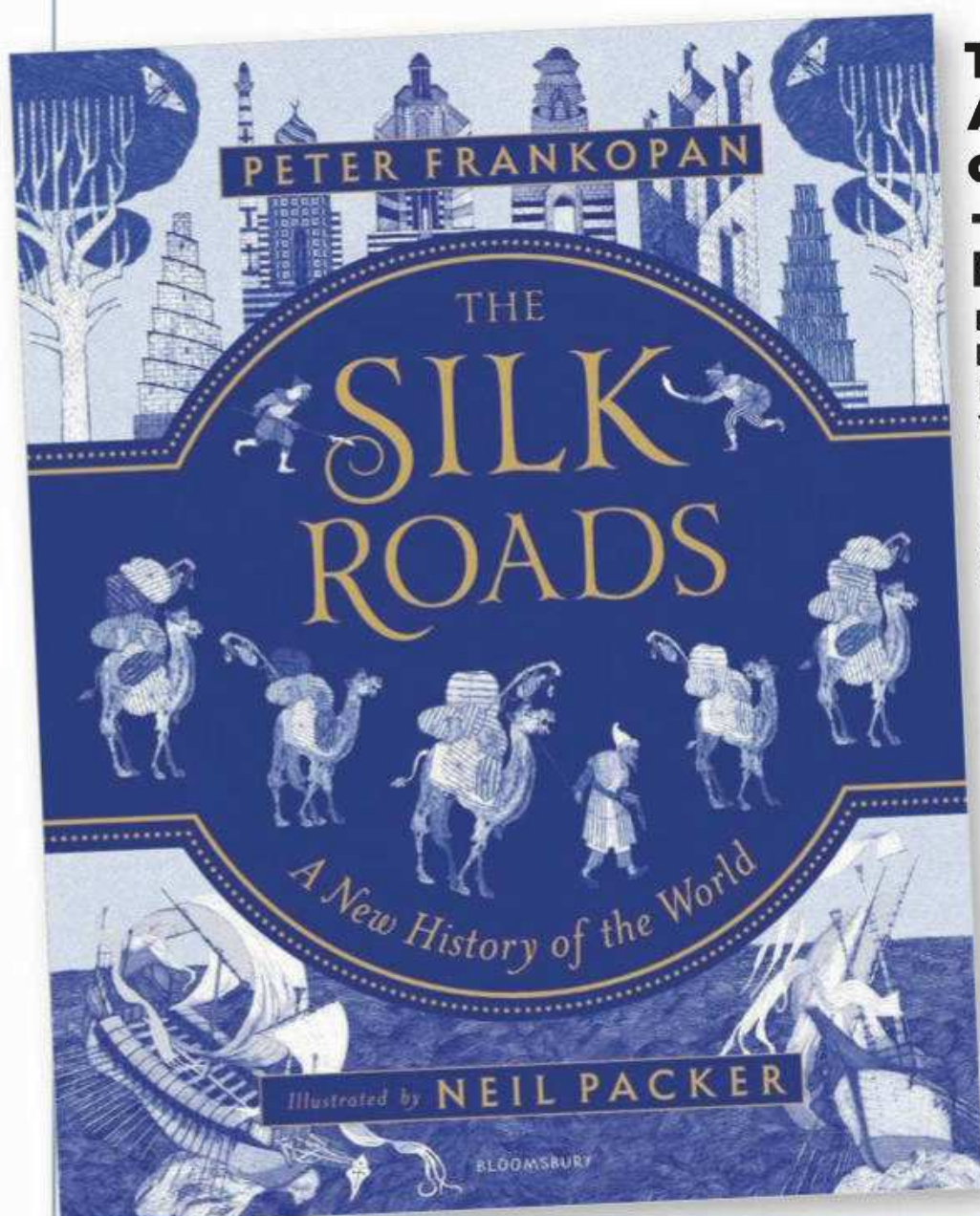


## On This Day in History

By Dan Snow

John Murray, £14.99, hardback, 448 pages

Travel back in time to the events of specific days in the past with this entertaining book of anniversaries from historian and presenter Dan Snow. Covering an entire calendar year, you can find out what happened on a particular date or browse at random, and with a broad range of subjects, times and places – from Egyptian discoveries to conflict in North America to Tudor treachery – there's plenty here to grab the attention.

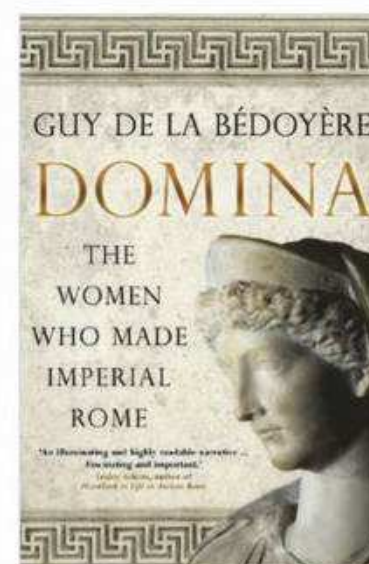


## The Silk Roads: A New History of the World – Illustrated Edition

By Peter Frankopan

Bloomsbury Children's Books, £16.99, hardback, 128 pages

Three years after the release of *The Silk Roads*, Peter Frankopan's hugely successful history of the world, comes a new version tailored for children. Studded with stylish, evocative illustrations from Neil Packer, it explores how trade between east and west shaped human development – from science and technology to religion and war – across the course of centuries. This is an ambitious account that nevertheless tackles big themes in a friendly, accessible way.



## Domina: The Women who Made Imperial Rome

By Guy De La Bédoyère

Yale, £25, hardback, 408 pages

It wasn't always easy being an ambitious woman in the classical world: society dictated that you remain chaste, virtuous and far from the world of politics. Yet, as this new study reveals, it was possible to be both powerful and female in Ancient Rome – you just had to know how to manipulate the men around you. Featuring tales of bravery, wit and cunning, this is a fascinating look at the characters who maintained a dynasty.







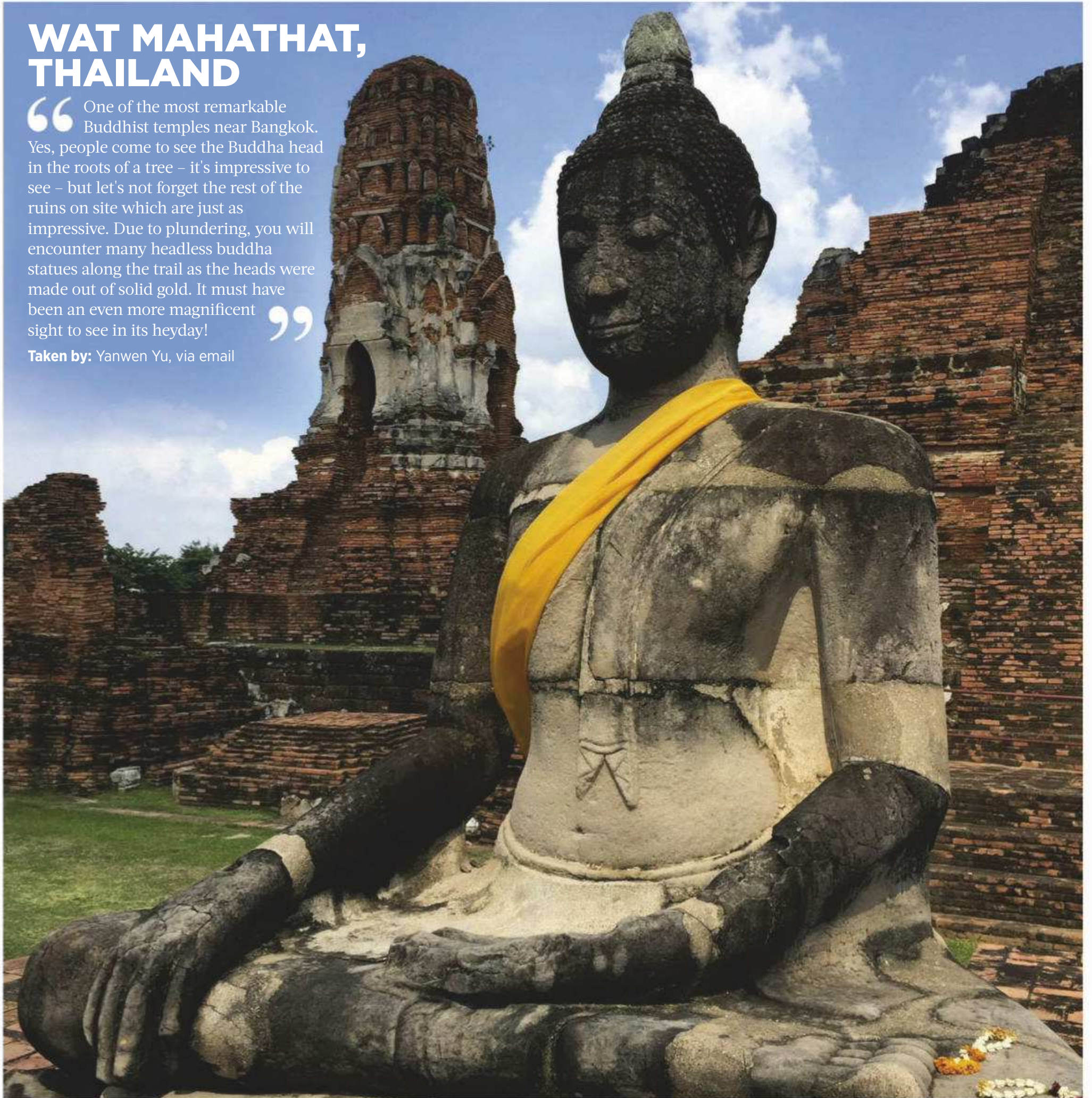
# POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Send your historical landmark pics to [photos@historyrevealed.com](mailto:photos@historyrevealed.com)  
message us on Facebook or use **#historyrevpostcards** on Twitter and Instagram

## WAT MAHATHAT, THAILAND

“ One of the most remarkable Buddhist temples near Bangkok. Yes, people come to see the Buddha head in the roots of a tree – it's impressive to see – but let's not forget the rest of the ruins on site which are just as impressive. Due to plundering, you will encounter many headless buddha statues along the trail as the heads were made out of solid gold. It must have been an even more magnificent sight to see in its heyday! ”

**Taken by:** Yanwen Yu, via email







## NETHER LARGIE SOUTH CAIRN, KILMARTIN GLEN

“ Dating to approximately 3,600 BC, this is one of several prehistoric burial cairns found in Kilmartin Glen, in Scotland’s Western Highlands. When excavated in 1864, remains of several burials, thought to have been members of the local farming community, were found. ”


**Taken by:** Ian Bolton, via email



## BODELWYDDAN CASTLE, DENBIGHSHIRE

“ I fell in love with the elegance and grandeur of this place. Not only is the building architecturally beautiful, but some of the rooms are so exquisite – there’s a real sense of lives lived here. I hope this photo is enough to feed your inquisitiveness to want to explore this historic place. ”

**Taken by:** Helen Taylor

 @helen\_littlenelly

### FEELING INSPIRED?

Send your snaps to us and we’ll feature a selection every issue.  
[photos@historyrevealed.com](mailto:photos@historyrevealed.com)



# READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

## PLOT HOLES?

I liked the short but extremely interesting set of key moments of the American Revolutionary War collected under the title 'Birth of a Superpower' (November 2018). What intrigued me was these key moments did not include Benedict Arnold's betrayal of the colonies though his plot to surrender West Point, nor on (the plus side) his victory

## LETTER OF THE MONTH

key architect of the defeat of John Burgoyne and the administration of British general Henry Clinton, which ordered this three-pronged

**"It intrigued me that these key moments did not include Benedict Arnold's betrayal"**

at Saratoga, which brought the French into the conflict. It's assumed that the victory went to other generals such as Horatio Gates, but I think that Arnold was the

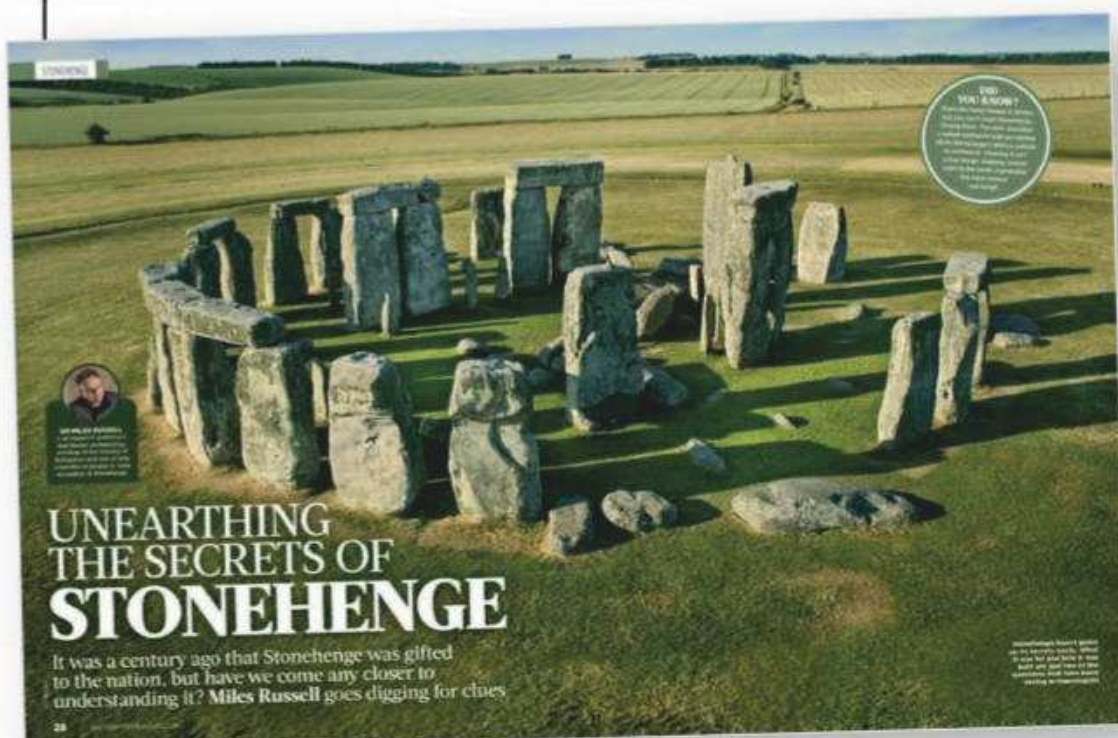
assault in the first place.  
**Duncan McVee**, via email

**Jonny Wilkes replies:**  
I'm glad you found the feature interesting, and you're

 Moved and inspired by the article on @CWGC in this month's magazine...amazing work that deserves to be recognised. @sarsar242

## HERE BE DRAGONS

There is a one-word reason why archaeologists and historians are making so little progress in understanding the meaning of Stonehenge (explored in



depth in our October 2018 issue) – perception.

The builders clearly knew precisely what the place was about. They had a perception of the universe that is different to ours and the monument is a symbol of that understanding. We have long forgotten their view so the monument is a mystery. Regain their perception and the monument becomes much clearer.

I have discovered what their viewpoint was. The evidence is found in the landscape all around us in every part of the country, but remains unseen because we are unaware it exists.

**PERCEPTION FILTER**  
Without concrete evidence, Stonehenge may remain a monumental mystery

What we don't know about, we don't see, even when it is on obvious display right before us. I can see the underlying meaning of the place very well.

The Dragon was the symbol of the endless cyclical nature of the universe, representing infinity itself, and was regarded in much the same way religious people today think of God. It was, in effect, God for possibly hundreds of thousands of years. Stonehenge was built to symbolise this concept of the Dragon and is clearly visible in the great sarsens and bluestones once the switch in the mind has been activated.

**Nigel Thomas**, via email

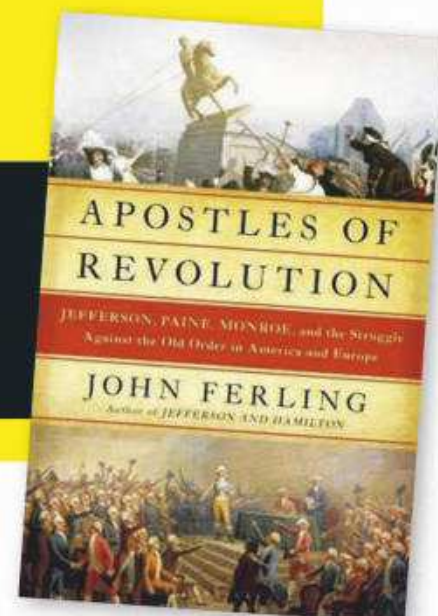


**MISSING MOMENTS**  
Duncan feels Saratoga and West Point need more recognition for their wider role in the American Revolutionary War

absolutely right to point out some of the key moments it didn't include. Covering the background of the American Revolutionary War – eight years of conflict, and its aftermath – meant there was a lot to choose

from! Victory at Saratoga and the betrayal of West Point were at the very top of the list of things that deserved more attention than they got.

**Duncan wins a hardback copy of *Apostles of the Revolution* by John Ferling. It tells the overlapping stories of Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine and James Monroe – three Founding Fathers in the vanguard of revolutionary thought in the 18th century.**





### Miles Russell replies:

The architects, designers and builders of Stonehenge, through all of its many phases of use, certainly knew what the place was about, but their perception of meaning and significance may well have changed with each and every generation – an important point given that the monument never appears to have been completed.

The problem is, of course, that there is no single answer to the question of why Stonehenge was built. Given that we know next to nothing about the societies that created it (how they were organised, how they saw themselves, how they understood the natural world and the skies above them), we can only ever make vague guesses and suppositions.

Setting, though, is indeed undoubtedly important – why was this piece of Salisbury Plain considered so important for so long? Most prominent places in the landscape have legends attached to them but, as the stories of the Stonehenge people have sadly not survived the intervening millennia, we can't know whether the structure is as much a monument to myth-fulfilment as it is a religious centre, burial ground or astronomical calendar.

### NAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE

Several issues back you had an article on the British ship *SS Great Eastern* ('Colour of Time', October 2018). I have been trying to find more information on this vessel,



### GREAT, BUT NOT EASTERN

**Brunel's largest ship, the *SS Great Eastern*, was built to ferry passengers to Australia – but it never sailed that far**

especially its construction. I lived in England for four years with the US Air Force at RAF Bentwaters in the early 1980s, and it was there I became interested in Isambard Kingdom Brunel and his bridges, vessels and the like. Do you have any information on sources for the *SS Great Eastern*?

**Stephen Debes,**  
Colorado, US

**Editor replies:** Thank you very much for your letter Stephen – we're glad you enjoy the magazine. We've sent you some contact details via post of the Brunel Museum, which should be able to help.

### VINDICATION

After reading the letter from Maggie Rickards (October 2018), it occurred to me that "a distant aunt of the family" (who was convinced that it was Stanley Baldwin who refused to help Tsar Nicholas II escape Russia) was suffering from a

severe case of hearsay! The Prime Minister, in 1918, was David Lloyd George and the current view is, I believe, that although he was initially reluctant to offer sanctuary to the Romanovs, he did ultimately try to persuade George V to invite them... with no success.

On the other hand, Stanley Baldwin, as a junior minister in the Treasury, was certainly not in any position from which he could exert pressure to influence any decision.

**Patricia Thompson,**  
France

**f** I think the photo of the Polish airmen who fought in the Battle of Britain (November 2018) is something I will never forget. I spoke to a young Polish lady about it this week, who works in my local bank, and she was astounded when I told her that many Polish young men escaped to the UK and joined the Air Force to do their part. She said she is proud of knowing this and I left her with a big smile on her face.

Elaine Robinson

### ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 59 are:  
**V Poulston**, Cheshire  
**David Armstrong**, Cheshire  
**Mark Baker**, Bristol

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of Edgar Reitz's magnum opus *Heimat* on Blu-ray.

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Bringing the past to life

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**Basic annual subscription rates**  
UK £64.87 **Eire/Europe** £67.99  
ROW £69.00

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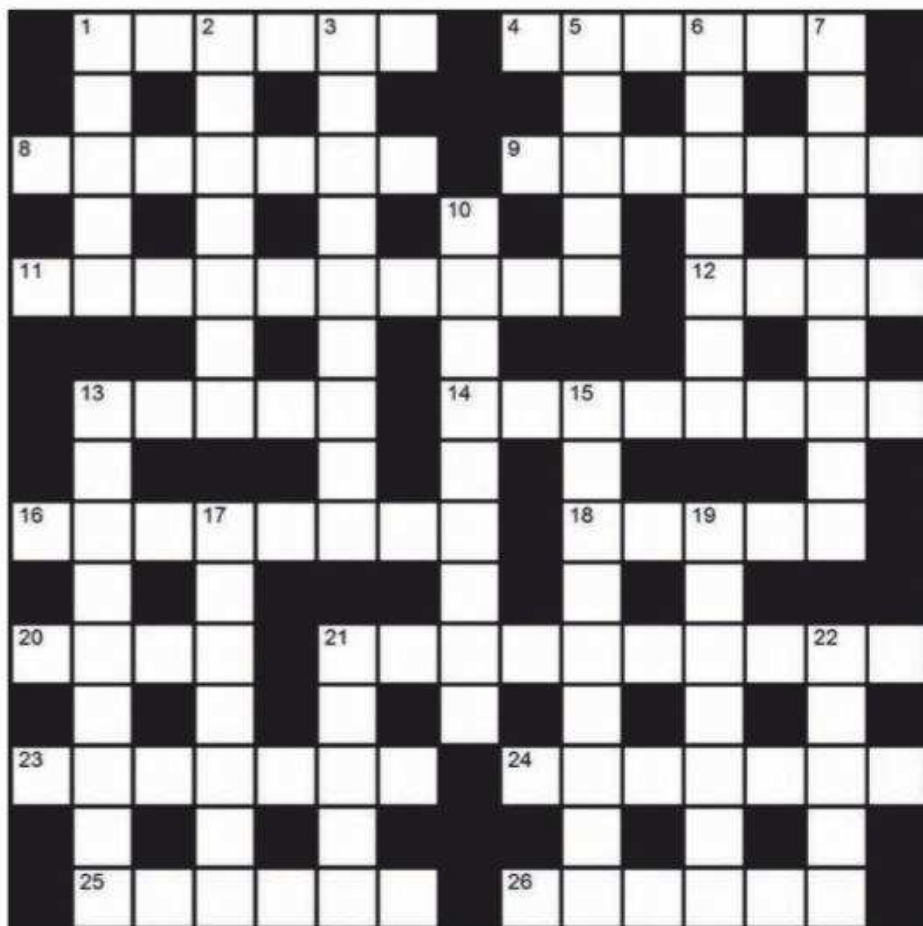
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# CROSSWORD N° 62

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



## ACROSS

- 1** 1950 film by Jean Cocteau, starring Jean Marais (6)  
**4** Chaim \_\_\_\_ (1918–97), president of Israel from 1983 to 1993 (6)  
**8** Dashiell \_\_\_\_ (1894–1961), crime writer, author of *The Maltese Falcon* (1930) (7)  
**9** David \_\_\_\_ (b.1944), first First Minister of Northern Ireland between 1998 and 2002 (7)  
**11** Irish novelist (1882–1941), author of *Finnegans Wake* (1939) (5,5)  
**12** *Postcards from the \_\_\_\_*, 1987 novel by Carrie Fisher (4)  
**13** In Greek myth, king of Troy and father of Hector (5)  
**14** \_\_\_\_ Haile Mariam (b.1937),

- former communist dictator of Ethiopia (8)  
**16** Rodgers and Hammerstein musical of 1945 (8)  
**18** 1958 hit for Buddy Holly and the Crickets (2,3)  
**20** Ancient Egyptian hieroglyph in the form of a looped cross (4)  
**21** Yehudi Menuhin and Stephane Grappelli, say (10)  
**23** In medieval England, a follower of John Wycliffe (7)  
**24** Space \_\_\_\_, reusable spacecraft first used in 1981 (7)  
**25** Common name for the Christian hymn known as the Greater Doxology (6)  
**26** Monster in Greek myth, associated with Charybdis (6)

## DOWN

- 1** Barack \_\_\_\_ (b.1961), 44th President of the US (5)  
**2** Ancient Italian city, destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79 (7)  
**3** California-born blues and soul singer (1938–2012) (4,5)  
**5** Genevieve Beavers \_\_\_\_ (1883–1956), feminist and New York City politician (5)  
**6** African river navigated by David Livingstone in the 1850s (7)  
**7** Holly \_\_\_\_, Truman Capote character (9)  
**10** Legendary sculptor who fell in love with his own creation (9)  
**13** Form of liturgical chanting in the Christian church, of which the Gregorian Chant is one example (9)  
**15** Term for the late Stone Age, beginning around 10,000 years ago (9)  
**17** Shakespearean tragic hero – the ‘Moor of Venice’ (7)  
**19** City of southwest England, noted historically for its links with exploration and the slave trade (7)  
**21** Giuseppe \_\_\_\_ (1813–1901), Italian composer of operas including *Rigoletto* (5)  
**22** Oklahoma city, once known as ‘The Oil Capital of the World’ (5)

## CHANCE TO WIN

### The Century Girls

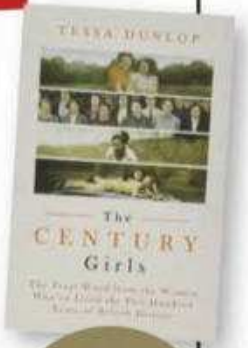
by Tessa Dunlop

Six women – five centenarians, one ‘young’ 99-year-old – chart 100 years of change in Britain through their lives’ adventures. An astounding oral history of a world that has come and gone.

Published by Simon & Schuster, £20.

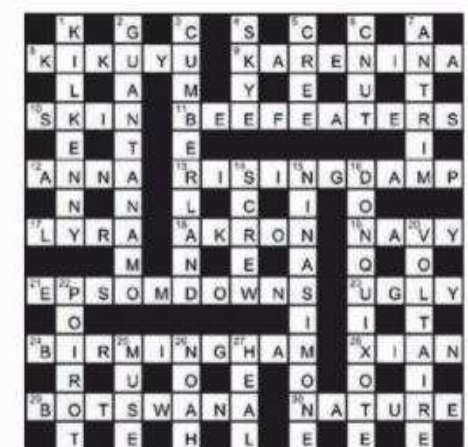
#### HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, December 2018 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **december2018@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 January 2019**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write ‘Do Not Contact IMC’ if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.



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## SOLUTION N° 60



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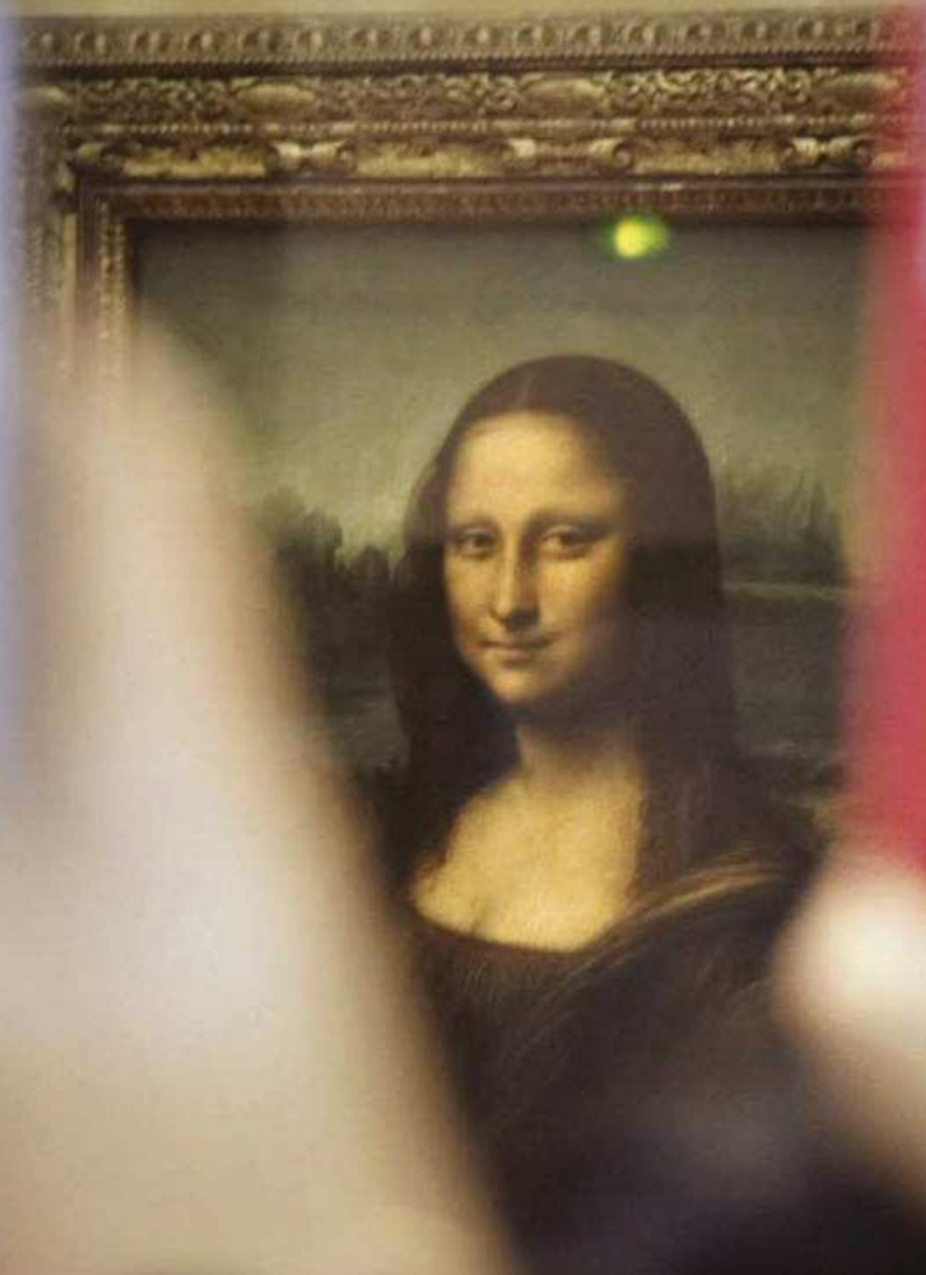
The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at [www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy).

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

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**PARIS, 1940**

France has fallen and the German army is in Paris. Days after the armistice of 22 June 1940, Adolf Hitler makes a triumphant visit to the conquered capital, accompanied by his favourite architect, Albert Speer (*left of Hitler*), and sculptor Arno Breker (*right*). They take in the Palais Garnier, Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower, but the highlight of the Fuhrer's three-hour tour is the tomb of Napoleon. "That was the greatest and finest moment of my life," he later declared.

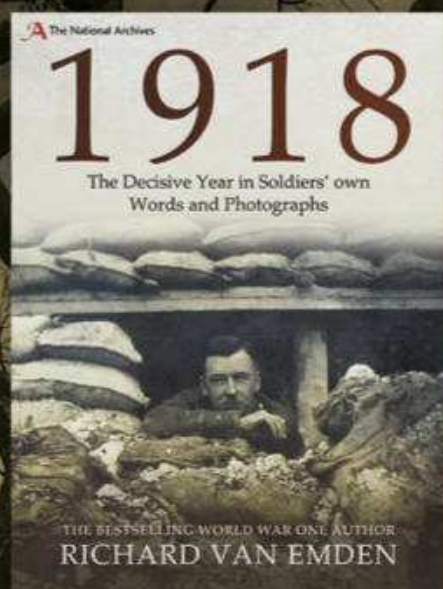


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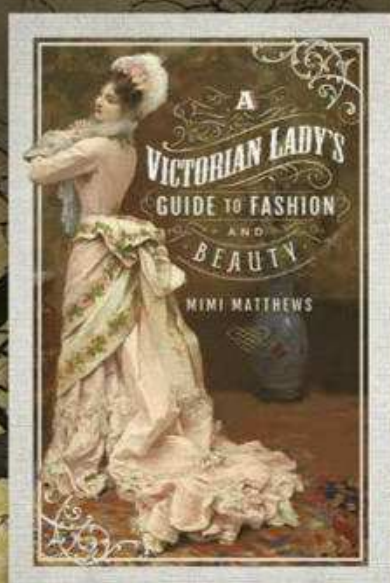


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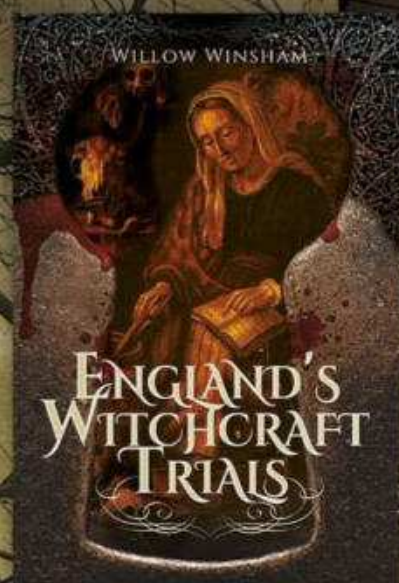
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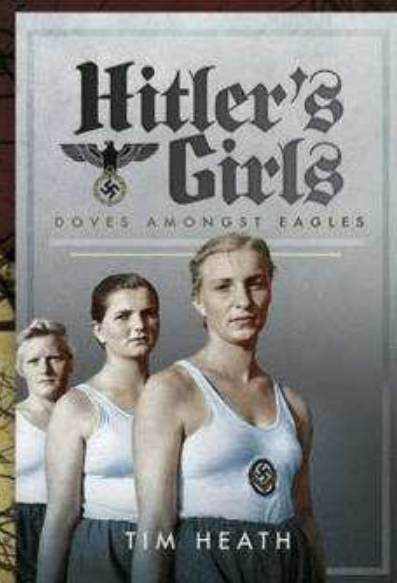
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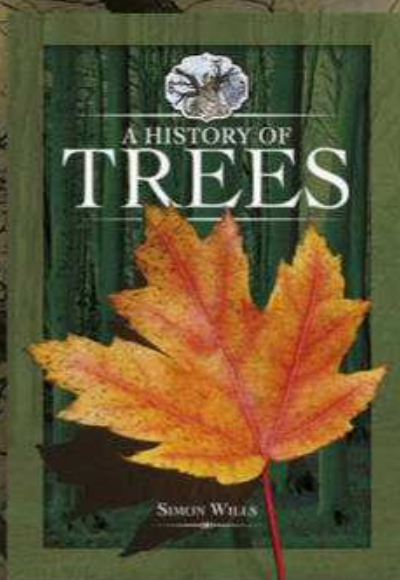
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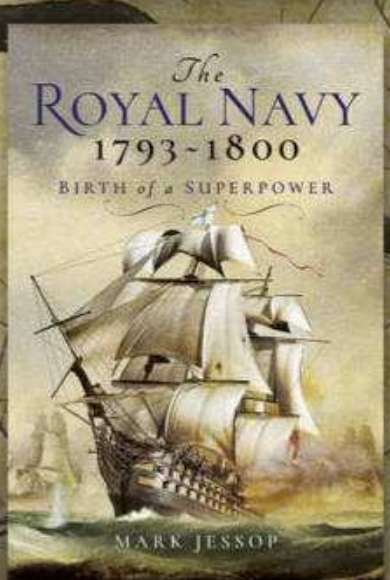
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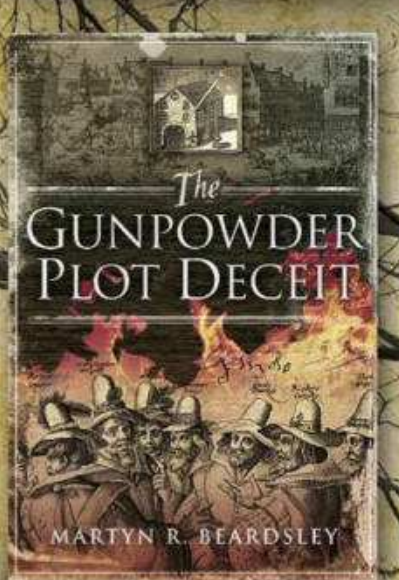
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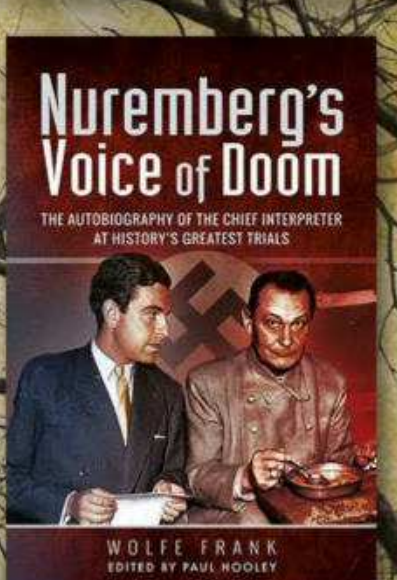
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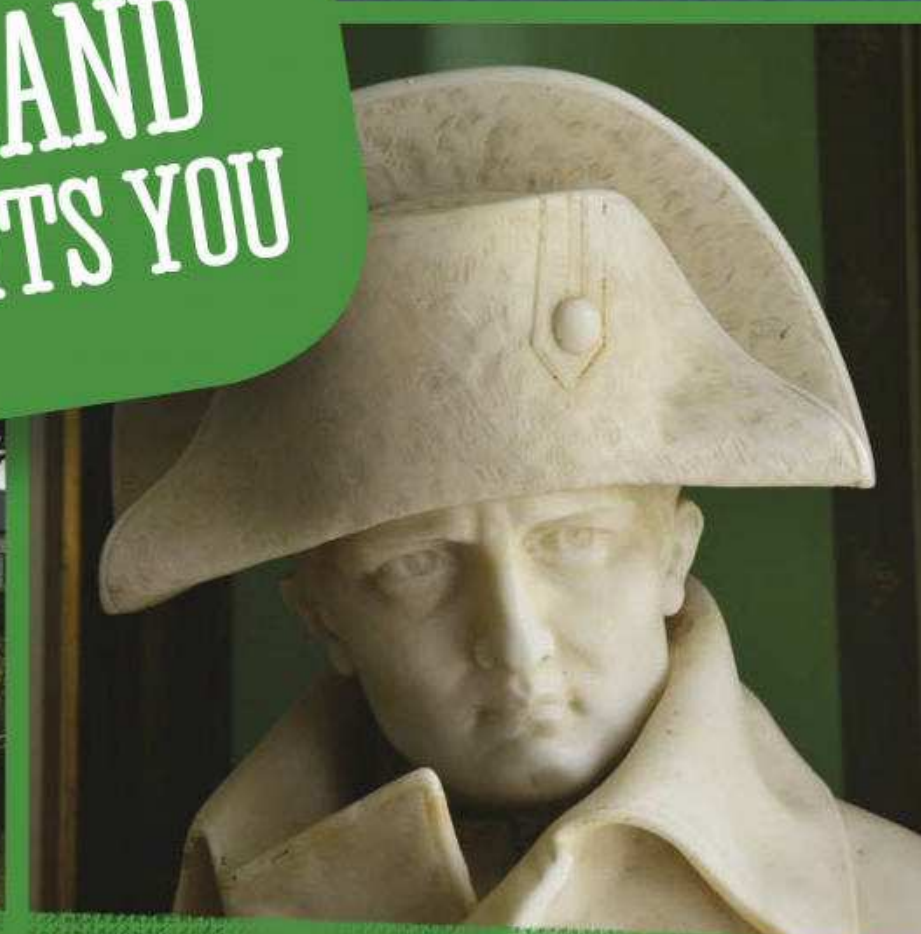


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